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Fiftieth session
(Provisional Agenda item 4)

ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) AND OTHER CSCE/OSCE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE CHARTER OF PARIS FOR A NEW EUROPE, THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT 1992 AND THE BUDAPEST SUMMIT DECLARATION 1994, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision A (49) regarding implementation of pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents within the ECE framework, including contributions to and practical follow-up of the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum held in Prague in March 1994, and paragraph 12 of decision D (49) related to economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Part I: General ECE cooperation with the CSCE/OSCE, including participation in relevant meetings

2. Since the forty-ninth session of the Commission, the ECE secretariat has continued to strengthen cooperation with the CSCE/OSCE in the economic dimension, as called for in the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, documents of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation, the Helsinki Document (1992), and the Budapest Document 1994, notably in the areas of the environment, statistics, international trade and industry and technology.

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3. The ECE has, since the signing of the Final Act of Helsinki on 1 August 1975, served as a principal forum within the UN system for the multilateral implementation of the provisions of the CSCE relating to the economic dimension. The rationale behind this cooperation stems not only from similar membership but also from the complementarity of the Commission's mandates and areas of activity with those of the OSCE. It was indeed the invitation by the Bonn Conference to the ECE to develop practical measures in priority areas that led to the adoption by the Commission at its forty-fifth session in the same year of the landmark decision defining its priority areas of work, still in effect.

4. At the same time, the OSCE's policy interests extend beyond the ECE's primary focus on economic and related issues to include the political, social, humanitarian and cultural spheres, which enable it to address common economic concerns in a broader security context, in which economic security plays a vital and fundamental role. This has all the potential to result in a natural symbiosis whereby the OSCE provides the political framework and the ECE provides a framework of intergovernmental machinery which is tried and tested, supported by a secretariat with a vast pool of expertise and experience in key areas of economic analysis, policy assessment, the elaboration of normsMedi, standards and legal instruments, as well as, in more recent years, technical cooperation. In view of this complementarity, the OSCE is in an ideal position to give the necessary political impetus to initiate, within the ECE, intergovernmental negotiations and action in a number of mutually relevant spheres.

5. ECE member Governments have given their strong and repeated support to the active participation of the ECE in both meetings of the CSCE Economic Forum held to date. On those occasions, the ECE made available to the participating States its technical expertise in the areas covered by the agendas of the two Forums, in brief, the consideration of a favourable business climate, including legal and institutional frameworks, particularly in trade and foreign direct investment; integrating economic and environmental factors during the transition, including the elaboration of international conventions and the consequent development of norms and standards; the role of infrastructures as key elements in the transition process; and cooperation in the area of science and technology for the development of industry and for the strengthening of international competitiveness. Written and oral contributions were made at both meetings of the Economic Forum. Since the second Forum took place prior to the Commission's Annual Session in 1994, a full account of the ECE contribution was given in document E/ECE/1288 of 9 March 1994. The general topic for the third Economic Forum, as decided at the 1994 Budapest Review Conference, is regional economic cooperation in the field of trade, investment and infrastructure. This topic corresponds to central aspects of ECE's programme of work, and the secretariat will respond positively to any invitation to make a substantive contribution to the preparation of the next Economic Forum.

6. This can also serve to assist the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to take into account in their work in an even greater way the provisions of the relevant CSCE documents, in particular the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document (1992) and the Bonn Document, which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE. The Commission's subsidiary bodies also contribute in the appropriate manner to the CSCE/OSCE Economic Forum, including the development of its programme of seminars, on matters

where the ECE has competence and can provide expertise and experience and at the same time avoid possible duplication with activities undertaken by other international organizations.

7. The Executive Secretary, as requested in decision A (49), contributed to and participated in both the CSCE Budapest Review Conference and Summit meeting which opened in Budapest on 10 October 1994 and ended with the Summit on 5 December, at the invitation of the Chairman-in-Office, in order that the CSCE participating States might be fully aware of the relevant activities of the ECE and in order to be able to report to the Commission as soon as possible thereafter on the outcome of the Review Conference, insofar as it contained recommendations directed toward the future work of the Commission. The Executive Secretary reported on the Review Conference and Summit at its ad hoc informal meeting on 12 December 1994.

8. In brief, ECE's contribution, based on consultations with member States and with the CSCE secretariat, identified a number of major topics in the economic and related fields. Topics were selected that were deemed to be particularly important issues related to the development of free market systems and to the integration of economies in transition into the world economy, while at the same time falling into areas where ECE already has expertise and ongoing work. For details and specific recommendations on the part of the Executive Secretary for closer ECE/OSCE cooperation, see "Contribution of the Economic Commission for Europe to the CSCE Review Conference, Budapest, 10 October 1994: Cooperation Between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe - Note by the Executive Secretary of the ECE".

9. The general thrust of this role remains valid: OSCE can give impetus to ECE activities in areas where, because of its broad political vision, it feels that new directions should be taken or the work should be intensified. In this spirit, the ECE secretariat particularly welcomes the recognition, in the 1994 Budapest Summit Declaration (paragraph 15), of the role ECE plays, along with other relevant international organizations and institutions, in support of the OSCE's economic dimension priorities. The ECE, as the OSCE itself, is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the Economic Forum and of the OSCE's other economic activities. It is prepared to cooperate with the Chairman-in-Office in exploring ways to integrate the economic dimension into the larger security context. In this regard, the secretariat is pleased that the CSCE participating States agreed in the course of the Review Conference to continue to encourage initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and have determined to take steps towards implementing the various international conventions relating to environmental protection, a number of which were elaborated by the ECE. The ECE secretariat is particularly pleased that the participating States will be collaborating with and supporting the relevant international organizations in the preparation of the next Ministerial "Environment for Europe" conference to be held in Sofia in 1995 for which ECE is coordinating contributions from all institutions concerned and is preparing the agenda and possible outcome.

10. The ECE secretariat also warmly welcomes the CSCE initiative to convene an ad hoc informal group to meet in Vienna to undertake the preparation of the Economic Forum and its follow-up (Budapest Summit Declaration, Ch.IX, para. 21). It is to be anticipated that such a feature, coupled with the added Review Conference recommendation to establish an international

organizations contact mechanism for information exchange (BSD, Ch.IX, para. 3), would serve to facilitate both pre- post- and inter-Economic Forum-related activities and follow-up. It is the intention of the Executive Secretary to be guided, if invited to participate in this contact mechanism, by the views the Commission has expressed or may wish to express and by his submission to the Review Conference referred to in paragraph 8 above. The ECE is equally ready to play an active role in promoting the integration of the economic dimension into the broader security framework of the CSCE (BSD, Ch. IX, para. 25).

11. The OSCE secretariat in Vienna has been keeping the Office of the Executive Secretary informed of preparatory meetings related to the economic dimension, as appropriate, on the understanding that representatives of relevant international organizations may be invited to such meetings (BSD, CH.IX, paras. 20, 21, 25).

12. In conclusion, there are are today even more ways in which the complementarity between OSCE and the ECE could lend itself to further cooperation in areas of mutual interest. This could lead to activities undertaken by the ECE on its own or in cooperation with other regional institutions. The Commission's member States have repeatedly reaffirmed their commitment to this process and, as long as they continue to do so, the secretariat stands ready to play an active role in facilitating follow-up action to whatever invitations the OSCE may extend to the ECE in its continuing role in the multilateral implementation of the relevant provisions of the OSCE.

Part II: Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean in light of relevant CSCE documents

13. Within the framework of the CSCE 1994 Budapest Review Conference, ECE participated, inter alia, in two sessions of the working group concerned with the economic dimension (Working Group IV/WG.IV) that were devoted to Mediterranean questions. The Commission's interest in these questions is based on its Mediterranean members and the interest shown in this area by other ECE member states across the geographic spread of its membership, as specifically expressed in statements of delegates at the Commission's 1994 Annual Session. It was expressed by a number of delegations at the Budapest Review that the fact of a joint proposal in the framework of WG.IV by the Non-Participating Mediterranean States (namely, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and Tunisia) was a milestone to be recognized.

14. Activities carried on within the ECE secretariat, as well as new initiatives undertaken by the Executive Secretary, to foster economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in light of the Final Act and other relevant documents of the CSCE are outlined in the paragraphs that follow.

15. The Committee on Environmental Policy adopted, in 1994, policy recommendations to ECE Governments on the prevention of water pollution from hazardous substances which contain indicative lists of hazardous substances and industrial sectors from which these substances derive. It was recommended to countries, including those of the Mediterranean region, that these substances and sectors should be subject to establishing emission limits on the basis of the best available technology and, where necessary, be subject to a total or partial prohibition. It is expected that the application of these

recommendations will lead both to a reduction of transboundary water pollution and land-based pollution and thus the protection of the marine environment, including the Mediterranean Sea. In doing so, the current water quality, water-quality requirements of current and future water users in the relevant catchments, requirements of aquatic and riparian flora and fauna, assessments of the risks involved, the urgency of control measures, and the economic feasibility should be taken into account.

16. The Committee on Environmental Policy continues to promote activities under the new environmental conventions on water management, environmental impact assessment and industrial accidents to facilitate adherence in particular by ECE countries from the Mediterranean region and those in transition. Meetings of signatories to these conventions, and meetings convened under their auspices, are open-ended. Under these conventions, fact-finding missions are being organized to Mediterranean and other countries which have not yet signed or ratified, to encourage and assist them to do so. Only five Mediterranean countries have signed these conventions, of which Albania has ratified all three and Spain only the 1992 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

17. In addition, the joint ECE/UNEP activity on strengthening environmental management capabilities in central and east European countries, undertaken by the ECE secretariat, has led to the issuance of Guidelines on Integrated Environmental Management in Countries in Transition (ECG/CAP/5). The Guidelines, to which the Committee on Environmental Policy gave its general approval in 1994, are particularly relevant for Mediterranean member States.

18. Pursuant to the 1991 recommendations of the Senior Economic Advisers and the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, ECE continues to promote the application, in all ECE countries non-members of OECD, of the Guidelines and Considerations for the Use of Economic Instruments in Environmental Policies, prepared by OECD for its member countries. In the Mediterranean basin, this includes seven countries in transition as well as Cyprus, Malta and Israel. Moreover, ECE has taken steps to extend systems and practices for the safe handling of chemicals, established by OECD for its member countries, to the ECE region as a whole, including the above-mentioned Mediterranean countries.

19. In the field of transport, studies on problems of specific interest to the countries of the Mediterranean region are carried out by the Transport Study Centres in Barcelona and Volos and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul. The work of these centres continues to form a valuable input to the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee.

20. The ECE and ECA secretariats, as requested by ECOSOC Resolution 1993/60, participated in follow-up activities to the project on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the straits of Gibraltar and are preparing jointly the report to be submitted to ECOSOC at its substantive session in 1995.

21. The Inland Transport Commitee decided that in future more importance should be attached to Mediterranean transport problems in the realm of its competence.

22. A Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy was organized by the Plataforma Solar de Almeria of CIEMAT, Spain, in cooperation with ECE in May 1994. In

addition, a Workshop on the Use of Solar Energy will be held in Tel Aviv from 31 July to 4 August 1995, organized by the Government of Israel in cooperation with ECE, to promote the use of solar energy and to enhance international cooperation for this purpose, including in the Mediterranean region.

23. The Industry and Technology Division has several specific activities, both ad hoc and continuing, in the Mediterranean area. In order to promote industrial cooperation and to improve transparency of the chemical industry, the Working Party on the Chemical Industry produced a successful sales publication, the Directory of Chemical Enterprises in the European Mediterranean Region in 1994. Under the auspices of the same Working Party, a Workshop on Waste Treatment in Industrial Parks was held in Istanbul in March 1994; follow-up work for the near future is to be discussed at the next annual meeting of the Working Party. As follow-up to an earlier workshop on Conformity Assessment convened in Cyprus in October 1993, under the auspices of the Working Party on Standardization Policies, discussions were held on the possibility of using the training facilities available in Cyprus to train quality inspectors from other countries, particularly from central and eastern Europe.

24. The work of the Committee on Agriculture on harmonization of standards for perishable produce, in particular, is of direct interest to the Mediterranean basin, given the nature of commodities concerned and the important corresponding trade flows taking place in this region.

25. The Timber Committee and its subsidiaries, the ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics and the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, disseminate information on forest fires and promote forest fire prevention and control activities, which are of direct relevance to the Mediterranean countries given the high prevalence of forest fires in this region. They also collaborate in the interregional Silva Mediterranean project of FAO which addresses specific forestry issues of countries bordering the Mediterranean. A seminar on Harvesting and Silviculture of Degraded and Coppice Forests in the Mediterranean Region was organized under the auspices of the Joint Committee in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 1 to 5 November 1994.

26. The 18th Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe took place in Nicosia (Cyprus) from 6 to 8 June 1994. The Meeting focused on planning for sustainable tourism development and suggested ideas and perspectives to guide and implement policies to this end. It concluded, inter alia, that sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean basin could be improved by intensifying the dialogue and cooperation among countries. The Meeting also decided to prepare a synthesis of the work that it had undertaken since its creation for submission to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

27. Outside of the regular programme activities of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies, the Executive Secretary convoked, in December 1994, a special meeting of ambassadors from ECE member and non-member states of the Mediterranean region, at a lunch to discuss the role of the UN/ECE in cooperation in the Mediterranean. The aim of the lunch was to exchange views on how to give concrete substance to the Commission resolutions which call each year for a strengthening of cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final

Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a new Europe and the Helsinki Documents.

28. Among the topics touched upon were: methods of transportation and harbour equipment; effective energetics; renewable energy; migration and employment; PMEs; environment; water management; recycling and waste management. It was also acknowledged that the ECE carries out activities on the analysis of macroeconomic and sectoral policies in which the Mediterranean is not really taken into account because of lack of resources and information.

29. It was agreed that the ECE secretariat would make an inventory of existing mechanisms of cooperation and of initiatives underway among states of the Mediterranean basin and identify what contribution the ECE could make within its mandate and expertise. Accordingly, the ECE secretariat is currently preparing a document which will be circulated among interested Mediterranean countries in order to facilitate an exchange of views and selection of priorities.

30. It was also recognized by the ambassadors that the ECE has elaborated numerous conventions and norms as well as various instruments for regional integration which may be extended to non-member Mediterranean countries.

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Fiftieth session
(Provisional Agenda item 5)

CONTRIBUTION OF THE ECE TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(Commission decision E (49))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. The Economic Commission for Europe, recalling General Assembly decision 46/472 of 13 April 1992 and resolution 48/215 of 23 December 1993, decided at its forty-ninth session (decision E (49)) to contribute, along with other programmes of the United Nations, to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization in 1995.

2. The Executive Secretary is preparing a compendium of the contributions which the ECE has made to the global programmes of the UN during its 48 years of existence. It will cover the ECE outreach programmes of benefit to the countries of other regions and the international community as a whole, such as EDIFACT, norms and standards, the transport of dangerous goods, energy efficiency, sustainable development, population trends and migration as well as other issues. It relates also to the ECE contribution to global aims and activities of the Organization. This compendium will be the basis of a book "Fifty Years of ECE" to be prepared for the fiftieth anniversary of the Commission in 1997.

3. Preparations are underway by the secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, for an exhibition highlighting the practical impact of ECE work on the daily life of the population in Europe to be integrated into a larger presentation organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Executive Secretary will participate in a Round Table debate to be broadcast by the Television Suisse Romande on United Nations Day, 24 October 1995.

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4. The second Road Safety Week in the ECE region, to be held from 27 March to 2 April 1995, is inscribed in the calendar of events held in the year of the fiftieth anniversary. The Executive Secretary has suggested to Ministers of Transport that since the second Road Safety Week will take place in the year of the fiftieth anniversary, they may wish to mention this in the campaigns waged in their respective countries.

5. The secretariat has already requested the UN Postal Administration to begin preparations for a UN stamp in 1997 to commemorate the Commission's fiftieth anniversary. In 1990 the UN issued a similar stamp reflecting ECE's work in the field of environment. "Transport and Environment" has been proposed as a theme for the stamp in commemoration of the fiftieth ECE anniversary.

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(Provisional Agenda item 6(a))

COLLECTION

CONSULTATIONS HELD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION WITH THE BUREAUX OR THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE WORKING PARTIES REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSION

(decision B (47), paragraph 4)

Report by the Chairman of the Commission

Introductory remarks

1. Commission decision B (47) invited the Chairman of the Commission together with the Executive Secretary to arrange consultations with the Bureaux or the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, in order to identify difficulties in the implementation of their work programmes and to facilitate the further streamlining of their activities, so as to ensure the most efficient use of existing resources; and also invited the Chairman of the Commission to report at Ad Hoc informal meetings the results of the consultations and to suggest whenever appropriate practical proposals for consideration by member countries, by the secretariat and by Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

2. The report on the consultations held last year proved to be a useful basis for discussion during the horizontal segment of the annual session of the Commission. The Chairman decided therefore to follow that practice.

3. Since the last annual session fourteen consultations have been held, either by the Chairman or by one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission. However it is the Chairman who bears the responsibility for the present report.

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4. The first broad set of questions which emerged from the consultations concerns ECE assistance to the newly independent countries in transition (CITs). The most important among them are: how to finance a wider participation of those countries in the meetings and activities of the various subsidiary organs of the ECE; how better to inform them about ECE activities; how to contribute most effectively and efficiently to the transformation of their economies.

5. Questions were also raised concerning the allocation of financial resources to the most important ECE activities and the possibilities of increasing them through extra budgetary contributions. Also new forms and modalities of cooperation with the private sector were considered in this context (see the consultations on Steel and on the Chemical Industry). The problem was also raised of more flexible ways of spending the ECE trust funds in order to benefit more the countries in transition.

6. Another recurring problem is the adaptation of ECE priorities set out in a totally different situation to the present needs of its expanded membership (see the consultations on Agriculture; Engineering Industries and Automation; Science and Technology; and Steel).

7. There is also a broad and complex question of coordination of the activities of the ECE and its subsidiary bodies with other organizations present in the region in particular as far as the calendar of meetings is concerned (see the consultations on Standardization and Senior Economic Advisers).

8. These are some of the issues related to the place and role of the ECE in the new emerging architecture of post cold war Europe. The Commission might wish to address some of them during the programme and coordination segment. The presence of members of the bureaux of its PSBs will certainly be of great help during the debate. It can be hoped that this exchange of views will contribute to finding adequate responses to the expectations of the expanded ECE membership.

Summary of the consultations

9. Views expressed in the summaries which follow are those of the participants at respective meetings and reflect their common opinion unless attributed to specific speakers.

Working Party on Standardization Policies

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 10 May 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. S. Averin (Russian Federation); Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden); Rapporteur, Mr. M. Lukaszewicz (Poland)

10. It was stated that the Working Party was a unique forum where leading figures in the area of standardization and related activities such as conformity assessment and metrology could exchange views and information and reach agreement on matters of mutual interest. Although some of the trade policy aspects were also touched upon in other fora, such as technical barriers to trade in GATT, EFTA and the European Commission, no other forum rivalled or was likely to rival in the near future the role of the Working Party as a supra-regional forum.

11. The Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. Averin, said that the main political question facing the Working Party was the attitude of the European Commission towards international standardization. By favouring the activities of the main west European standardization institutions, CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, over wider international cooperation, the European Commission was in fact discriminating against third countries. The insistence that the Russian Federation should accept certificates of conformity issued by European Commission bodies without reciprocity was cited as an example of such discriminatory practices.

12. Mr. Arvius stated that, although the European Commission might have a certain tendency to favour standardization bodies in its member countries, he was of the opinion that the absence of European Commission representatives from the Working Party's three recent annual meetings resulted from internal difficulties and the burden of work rather than from a lack of interest in the activities of the Working Party. He was prepared to inform the Commission's DG III of the concern of the Working Party.

13. The need was stressed to coordinate better the activities of the PSBs concerning the recommendations on or observation of some standards relating to transport, environment or perishable produce. The example was cited of recommendations on standards worked out by the Working Party that had been entirely ignored by the Inland Transport Committee while elaborating agreements on the transport of dangerous goods. Since the activities of the Working Party were closely connected with the question of access to markets, which would be one of the main themes of the forthcoming Commission session, the Director of the Industry and Technology Division was invited to contact the Trade Division to establish cooperation between the two Divisions in the preparation of a background paper. It was also said in this context that the application of certain standards could permit the avoidance of some trade barriers.

14. Particular attention was paid to the problem of financing training courses on standardization and related activities which were of great interest to the CITs. One idea raised was to establish a team of specialists who could visit interested countries and give such courses.

Committee on Agriculture

(Consultation held by Mr. U. Rosengarten on 19 May 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. K. Hirsch (Germany); Vice-Chairmen, Mr. N.V. Averyanov, (Russian Federation), Mr. A. Gasowski, (Poland)

15. Assistance to countries in transition was the main goal of the reorientation of the Committee's programme of work. Referring to this task, the role of the Committee in contributing to policy orientation in the following programme elements was stressed: review of market situation, current trends and prospects, institutional aspects of market management including problems of privatization, land reform and marketing.

16. Problems of facilitating market access for agricultural produce coming from the countries in transition were raised. The ECE could analyse the evolution of the flows of the agricultural products and their quality on the one hand and the demand on the other. The Commission should not however duplicate discussions held on this item in other international fora.

17. It was stated that the Committee was at the same time a political body (dealing with political issues, e.g. assistance to CITs) and a group of experts. In this context the view was expressed that the rank of national delegates should be higher. The other members of the Bureau stressed rather the importance of better attendance at the Committee sessions. The Bureau was concerned about the limited participation of countries in transition in the Committee's sessions. Different proposals were considered in order to improve the situation: sending a letter from the secretariat to high level officials in the Ministries of Agriculture, finding funds for financing the participation of CITs, especially for those which are not FAO members.

18. The Bureau was of the opinion that the identification of agriculture as a non-priority area for the ECE should be re-examined. Agriculture was closely linked to other important areas like environment, transport, energy and trade and therefore should be seen in a wider context.

19. There was a consensus that the resolution on "Cooperation of the ECE and FAO in the field of agriculture in Europe" adopted by the Committee at its forty-fifth session aimed at maintaining the support of the FAO to the ECE secretariat for the sake of the work being done. A number of CITs are not FAO members and the ECE constitutes for them the only international forum dealing with agriculture. A common opinion was expressed that the existing capacities in Geneva to service the Committee on Agriculture should be maintained.

20. Importance of the cooperation with Codex in standards setting activities was underlined. At the same time the valuable work on standards done by the ECE was pointed out. With regard to agricultural produce it was stated that the ECE could considerably help the CITs to offer high quality goods (in conformity with ECE standards) on international markets.

Committee on Environmental Policy

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 31 May 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. K. Barlund (Finland); Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. D. Mount (United States), Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands), Mr. V. Kostin (Russia), Mr. B. Natov (Bulgaria), Ms. B. Quincy (France) and Mr. I. Tokes (Hungary)

21. It was stated that new terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy would better respond to the challenging tasks facing the region. The following strategic issues of the session were highlighted: finalization of Guidelines on Integrated Environmental Management in CITs, extension of the system of country environmental performance reviews to the entire ECE region by launching a pilot ECE review of Estonia and cooperating with OECD in its pilot reviews of Poland, Bulgaria and Belarus, preparations for the Sofia Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in October 1995, implementation of the three recent environmental conventions pending their entry into force (on Environmental Impact Assessment, on Transboundary Waters and on Industrial Accidents) and promotion of the ECE Plan of Action to Implement Agenda 21.

22. A common view was expressed that many activities could not be financed through the current regular budget and therefore more resources were needed. A question was raised whether there was in all capitals sufficient support and political interest for the ECE in general vis-à-vis other organizations. The need was emphasized to draw the attention of member Governments to the ECE as

a whole. Opportunities were underscored of raising the political role of the ECE by organizing on a regular basis similar to OECD ministerial meetings for discussions of major cross-sectoral issues. A proposal was also mentioned to push the ministers more and make them attend from time to time the regular ECE environmental meetings.

23. The importance of the Committee's activities for both eastern and western countries was stressed. The transboundary character of environmental problems, e.g. air and water pollution, should act as an integrating factor. Convergence of environmental conditions and policies was contributing to stability in the region. In this context concern was expressed about the ratification process and implementation of the ECE environmental conventions.

24. With regard to assistance to CITs, the role of the Committee was acknowledged in strengthening environmental management capabilities in countries in transition and promoting integration of environmental policies with other policies at national level. It was also said that the provision of financial assistance to CITs would facilitate participation of their experts in ECE meetings.

25. It was stated that greater involvement of all PSBs in the field of environment and sustainable development was needed. The Committee should elaborate at its special session in autumn 1994 relevant recommendations to the Commission pursuant to decision F (49).

26. Financial problems of the forthcoming Sofia Ministerial Conference were raised. In this regard it was also stated that ongoing cooperation with the European Community on the implementation of the ECE conventions, with OECD on environment and economics and on environmental reviews as well as on hazardous wastes and with UNEP on improvement of environmental management in CITs, would be strengthened during the preparatory process for this Conference.

27. The need was mentioned of active involvement of the Committee in the preparations for the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment.

28. The Bureau emphasized that additional long-term resources were needed for the new activities on environmental performance review and "Environment for Europe" process.

Senior Economic Advisers

(Consultation held by Ambassador C. Manhusen on 8 June 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. J.-P. Pagé (France); Vice-Chairmen, Mr. I. Kosir (Slovakia), Mr. K. Puumanen (Finland)

29. The Chairman recalled briefly the main activities undertaken by the Senior Economic Advisers (SEA). The discussion of medium- and longer-term projections and related analysis were referred to as activities which were highly appreciated by national delegations and were of particular interest to policy makers in the region. Efforts made by the secretariat to present a synthesis of global projections prepared by national and international organizations should be continued (and their results widely disseminated). With respect to CITs it would be desirable to prepare projections not only for groups of countries but for individual countries as well. This applies

particularly to the newly independent States of the former USSR which at present are treated only in an aggregated way by UN Project LINK.

30. International economic relations in the ECE region in the light of the outcome of the Uruguay Round and the restructuring of State-owned enterprises were the two topics which had been selected by the Senior Advisers as focus for their discussions. As a follow-up to the decisions adopted by the Senior Advisers at their last session these topics were introduced by discussion leaders. A summary of the main conclusions and findings emerging from the debates was prepared by the Bureau under its responsibility and issued as a separate document. Given the interest attached to the exchange of views and information during the SEA's annual session it is hoped that in the future more publicity will be given to their activities in order to attract a wider audience.

31. It was also stressed that the main findings of the Economic Survey of Europe should be more widely disseminated among economic experts and policy makers in the region. Mr. Pagé, supported by Mr. Berthelot, suggested in this connection that each year a presentation of the Survey be made by the secretariat to selected ECE member countries. France was ready to host such meetings.

32. It was agreed that the SEA provided a unique forum for countries in transition to exchange views and opinions with their western partners and achieve a better mutual understanding of their respective positions. There was a common understanding that more emphasis should be put on assistance to CITs. If we want to help them we should do it now; in a few years the transition will be over and the assistance will not be necessary. The SEA could also play a major role in the provision of technical assistance to countries in transition, e.g., to facilitate the accession of some CITs to the World Trade Organization.

33. Bearing in mind a better attendance at the SEA meetings and a higher level of participating delegations, a common view was expressed that the SEA sessions should be shorter and last less than one week as at present. The future dates of sessions should be coordinated with other international organizations, e.g. OECD, in order to avoid unfortunate conflicts of dates.

34. It was also pointed out that the agenda should concentrate on selected substantive issues. Proposals were made to delete as an agenda item the review of "matters arising from the preceding Commission session" and "activities of other PSBs", and rather to focus the attention on transition issues and rationalize the adoption of reports which normally takes too much time. It was said that an informal meeting of Senior Advisers scheduled for January 1995 should serve this purpose.

Senior Advisers on Science and Technology

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 23 September 1994)
Bureau: Mr. M. Kepka (Poland); Mr. P. Baruch (France) (absent from the meeting)

35. The Chairman of the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology (SAST) stressed the generally constructive atmosphere which had prevailed at the session, that differed to some extent from the previous one. Delegates had

shown their interest in improving the efficiency of this body which was playing an important role in assisting a number of countries in transition. It was also pointed out that the SAST remained a unique forum for the exchange of views and information in particular for CITs. Although there was some overlapping with the activities of the OECD it was in the interest of the CITs since it was the only body in the region where all European countries are equal partners.

36. It was stated that the session itself was largely oriented towards the problems of assistance to countries in transition. A new programme activity entitled "Role of science and technology in securing sustainable development of the economies in transition" had been included in the work programme of SAST. The Senior Advisers had also decided to participate actively in the second Workshop on Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition to be held in Budapest in autumn 1995 and to organize a seminar on the reorganization of the system of management of science and technology under new economic and political conditions, in the Russian Federation in 1996.

37. The usefulness of the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology was emphasized. It was recommended that the work be continued and a compilation be made available of the most recent summaries of national submissions in the form of a publication.

38. Since in many countries in transition the development of science and technology was considered to be of utmost importance, the necessity of reshaping the ECE priorities was raised. The question of holding the sessions of the Senior Advisers annually within existing resources was also discussed. It was accepted that there was a possibility of organizing the sessions annually if the Senior Advisers and the Commission so desired.

39. Attention was drawn to the problem of financing SAST activities, e.g. the seminar on State policy in countries in transition aimed at promoting innovation in industry, which had not yet been held as planned in Poland owing to financial difficulties. It was also pointed out that the secretariat´s resources to implement the SAST work programme were minimal which was an obstacle to organizing more seminars and/or workshops.

40. It was agreed that the forum discussion held at the 1994 session on the main issues of national science and technology policy in the economies in transition and the role of international organizations in maintaining and developing their R & D potential, was a useful exercise and a further discussion on another subject would be organized at the next session.

41. An exchange of views took place on the idea of organizing a Science Summit (tentatively in 2000) with the aim of determining ways of matching the efforts and the potential of all countries in the region to solving important global problems.

Working Party on the Chemical Industry

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 7 October 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. J. Coupek (Czech Republic); Vice-Chairman, Mr. R.W.P. Steur (Netherlands)

42. The importance of the chemical industry and its products to all sectors of the economy was underlined. At the same time the need to improve the public image of this sector was stressed, causing increasing concern of the chemical industry in particular in the context of environmental protection and sustainable development.

43. The Bureau was of the opinion that the efficiency of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry was increasing. Delegations were demanding more action but financial resources were lacking. The decreasing role of the State vis-à-vis the private sector in the chemical industry was discussed. Of the 22 delegations attending the meeting more than half were from private industry and associations. To establish good cooperation with the private sector was considered of utmost importance for the future work of the Working Party.

44. The lack of travel funds was mentioned as a reason for the low participation of delegations from some countries in transition.

45. The Working Party on the Chemical Industry was considered to be a unique forum, where representatives of Governments, industry and international organizations could effectively exchange views and opinions on crucial problems facing the chemical industry in the region. It was stressed that these activities should be strengthened in order to maintain the interest and support of the Governments and the private sector.

46. It was pointed out that the programme of work of the Working Party was intensive and its implementation efficient. The programme was focused on issues resulting from the guiding principles of the ECE or the priority subprogrammes, e.g. the promotion of sustainable development and assistance to CITs. The opinion was expressed that assistance should gradually be replaced by partnership between the developed western countries and the countries in transition. Projects relating to such objectives fell within the regional programme entitled Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED).

47. Strong support was expressed for the CHEMISEED programme and its further implementation in close cooperation with other international organizations. The need for substantive and financial assistance to the Regional Environmental Centre for the Chemical Industry in Warsaw was highlighted. The pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals and the comparative study of chemical legislation were noted. The importance of the work on the harmonization of chemical legislation within the region, based on the studies of the Working Party was emphasized. The comparative study was considered as an excellent example of cooperation with the European Commission.

48. The work of the Working Party in the field of statistics should be further developed and given high priority, in particular the publication "The Chemical Industry - Annual Review". In this context the secretariat proposal to include analysis of trade in chemicals in its annual bulletin was welcomed by the meeting. It was also recommended that resources be made available to finalize The Directory of Chemical Producers and Products as decided by the Working Party. The Directory was said to be one of the most successful publications of the Division.

Timber Committee

(Consultation held by Ambassador C. Manhusen on 13 October 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. M. Lipman (absent from the meeting); Vice-Chairmen, Mr. G. Siegel (Austria), Mr. D. Darr (United States)

49. The discussion of forest products markets held at the session of the Committee was commented on. The desirability of cooperating with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) was stressed, especially as the Timber Committee had always reviewed tropical timber markets in its region, alongside markets for other forest products. The meeting noted that the ECE secretariat had taken the initiative in contacting the ITTO secretariat with a view to developing modalities for cooperation, in order to avoid duplication of work.

50. It was stated that the Committee was making an important contribution to sustainable forest management (which remained the highest priority for the Committee) and the follow-up to the UNCED and the Helsinki Conference. A toolkit prepared by a team of specialists for use in information and awareness efforts in order to reach a proper balance in the public opinion between the economic and the environmental and social imperatives of sustainability of the sector was very welcome.

51. The establishment of a team of specialists on certification of forest products (decided by the Committee) in order to investigate consequences of possible schemes for certifying that wood products originate from sustainable managed forests was also commented on. Close cooperation in this field with GATT was recommended.

52. It was stated that the programme of cooperation with countries in transition was proceeding satisfactorily. Problems of participation of some CITs were mentioned. The initiative taken by the Committee team to collect information on relevant bilateral and multilateral activities aimed at assisting CITs was welcome. The importance of workshops was recognized. More assistance was expected from the programme of activities of ECE regional advisers.

53. The meeting noted that the mechanism for coordination between the Committee and one of its subsidiary bodies, the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology Management and Training, needed improvement.

54. It was noted that the restructuring of the FAO/ECE relationship appeared to be moving towards a satisfactory solution, although the solution proposed could be administratively fragile. The problem should be monitored.

Working Party on Steel

(Consultation held by Mr.U.Rosengarten on 28 October 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. H.U. Meiswinkel (Germany); Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. Shevelev (Russian Federation)

55. It was stated that the Working Party on Steel was working efficiently in the ECE priority areas and had successfully involved in its work both the steel industry and government representatives. This involvement had

contributed to the success of the Working Party in implementing its programme of assistance to CITs.

56. It was recalled that a regional programme, "Metallurgy and Ecology", had been developed in the field of the sustainable development of the steel industry and environmental protection. Seminars and workshops were organized within this programme and a bibliography of publications on the environment and the steel industry was being elaborated. Members of the secretariat had been invited to act as technical advisers on financial and managerial aspects of the restructuring of the steel industry in CITs.

57. It was noted that the regular staff of the steel section had decreased over the last three years. However, thanks to some member countries which had provided highly qualified economists, personal computers and financial support, activities had been reorganized and reoriented towards more practical and efficient assistance to CITs.

58. Parallel to this the Working Party had launched a project aimed at integrating the steel industry of the CITs into the steel industry of Europe as a region. This project was supported jointly by the World Bank, the EBRD, the European Commission, the International Iron and Steel Institute and the ECE. The project had provided for the first time a detailed picture of the steel industry in western, central and eastern Europe and was a practical tool for potential investors in the decision-making process.

59. The Vice-Chairman of the Commission expressed his particular satisfaction with this project which was meeting many of the requirements of the CITs. He also expressed the wish that such a model be applied in other sectors and that a recommendation to that effect be formulated for discussion by the Commission. He was of the opinion that resources should be invested to explore the possibilities of cooperation with the newly established Euro-Asian Agreement for Coal and Steel which was made up of the CIS countries.

60. The Vice-Chairman commended the amount of work done by the Working Party and suggested that it be allowed more days for meetings. He suggested that given the extensive statistical activities within the Industry and Technology Division, resources be found for an additional statistician to join the Division and that this question be handled at the Commission level. He recommended that special interest should in the future be attached to this sector of industry which if not a "priority" sector was certainly a "necessity" sector.

Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation

(Consultation held by Mr. U. Rosengarten on 1 November 1994)
Bureau: Chairperson, Ms. J. Ory (France); Mr. R. Bandorowicz (Poland) on behalf of Vice-Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. V. Petrichenko (Russian Federation) (absent from the meeting).

61. The main activities of the Working Party were reviewed. It was stated that the programme of work had been further streamlined in order to address some of the priority areas of the ECE: economic analysis and statistics, environmental protection and assistance to engineering industries in countries in transition. It was also noted that the assistance priorities of the CITs did not necessarily coincide with the five ECE priorities.

62. The problem was raised of participation of delegates from countries in transition, especially those from the newly independent States of the former USSR. Even their passive participation could result in benefits for them. It was noted that the participation of experts in individual projects (statistics, medical engineering, industrial automation etc.) as well as in seminars and workshops organized in countries in transition (e.g. in Minsk) was much better than the participation in the annual sessions of the Working Party. The lack of financial resources to pay the travel costs and the stay in Geneva was indicated as a main reason. It was therefore thought a good idea at present to organize workshops in countries of central Europe and western parts of the CIS. Nevertheless, it was proposed to raise this question at the fiftieth Commission session.

63. It was pointed out that activities undertaken in selected areas, e.g., industrial robotics, technical aid for the elderly and disabled, and new engineering materials, continued to attract both west European and American experts as well as those from Japan and countries in transition. In addressing social issues, e.g. rehabilitation engineering, the Working Party was responding to socio-economic challenges and contributing to the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development.

64. The excellent cooperation with OECD on engineering statistics was stressed. The need for an improvement and enhancement of the relationship with the European Commission and the Council of Europe was recommended.

65. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with its working contacts with the secretariat. Two professional staff members (50% of resources compared to 1984) had managed to finalize four sales publications and service one seminar and one workshop in 1994.

Committee on Energy

(Consultation held by Ambassador C. Manhusen on 10 November 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. I. Szergenyi (Hungary); Vice-Chairman, Mr. Alptürk (Turkey); Chairman of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, Mr. D. Volfberg (Russian Federation) (on behalf of Vice-chairman of the Committee on Energy, Mr. A. Gritsenko, absent from the meeting).

66. The main activities of the Committee were reviewed. It was noted that the programme of work had been further streamlined to address priority issues of the Commission and that collaboration with other PSBs as well as with other UN and non-UN initiatives in the energy field should be strengthened. In particular every effort should be made to support the European Energy Charter and its Energy Efficiency Protocol.

67. It was stated that more emphasis should be put on energy problems in the ECE region, particularly on energy policies and strategies. Participants in the meeting noted that there was no common region-wide energy policy which would secure programming of supply and demand. The various policies in different countries of the region could be studied more closely so that energy scenarios might be set out. It was stressed however that Governments were free to decide upon their energy policy, patterns of consumption or prices. The ECE could serve as a forum for an exchange of views. It was also said that more discussion should be dedicated to energy-related issues, particularly energy policy under transition circumstances, and less to

economic world-wide review. It was recalled that such a proposal should be inserted into the report of the Committee on Energy session. It was also stated that the Committee should pursue its activities in energy in an integrated manner including economic analysis, such as growth of GNP and improvement of living standards, as well as environmental aspects.

68. Increased cooperation with countries in transition was noted. The Round Table on Energy Pricing in CITs was considered a positive innovation in the work of the Committee which highlighted new ideas of setting up realistic energy prices. Questions relating to energy prices, consumption and social aspects should be further discussed. It was agreed that given the importance of energy pricing for countries in transition, more assistance in this area was needed (e.g., another round table discussion, workshops, symposia etc.).

69. The Demonstration Zones programme under the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project was recognized as another area of successful assistance to CITs which should be further developed and enlarged.

70. With regard to the establishment of the "Gas Centre" a common view was expressed that it might play a very useful role for the CITs.

71. In view of the important part energy activities have in providing assistance to economies in transition, including the IMPACCT programme (clean coal technologies), caution was expressed during the Committee on Energy session by the United Kingdom and Germany that too many extrabudgetary activities could diminish the importance of regular programmes. In this context it was recalled that trust funds could not be used for financing regular ECE activities. All participants in the meeting agreed that this problem should be looked at more closely in the future as the programmes develop.

72. The major difficulty in the work of the Committee was the problem of participation of delegates coming from countries in transition. It was stated that insufficient participation was due to financial difficulties in these countries notwithstanding their keen interest in energy. The ECE secretariat was asked to review this issue so as to facilitate, to the extent possible, their participation.

73. In order to enhance the role of the Committee it was proposed to shift the emphasis of its work towards energy policy questions and to secure the participation in Committee sessions of people dealing directly with energy problems. It was also said that the increased participation of the European Union and other international organizations would contribute to cooperative arrangements among all parties concerned.

Committee on the Development of Trade

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 7 December 1994)
Bureau of the Committee on the Development of Trade: Chairman, Mr. Jeffrey de Laurentis (United States); Vice-Chairman, Mr. Berinde (Romania);
Bureau of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4): Chairman of the WP.4, Mr. T. Blomfeldt (Finland); Chairman of WP.4/GE.1, Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom)

74. The Chairman of the Committee commented briefly on the proceedings during the first day of the session. He expressed pleasure at the high quality of the documentation and concern at the lateness of its submission.

75. The Bureaux discussed the problem of re-engineering and a proposal to upgrade the status of WP.4. The following reasons for changing the status of WP.4 and re-organizing its activities were mentioned:

- to give it the enhanced status it required; people outside the UN cannot understand why such an activity was only accorded the status of a Working Party given its global and intersectoral character;

- to separate technical discussions and decision taking from policy discussion;

- to achieve a leaner and more efficient organization by eliminating one layer (the present meetings of experts GE.1 and GE.2) in the organizational structure.

76. The proposed Committee would then have two Working Parties: one for EDIFACT and the other for trade procedures. The new body would only deal with policy issues.

77. It was noted that, whatever the outcome of the re-engineering process, more resources would be needed. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that he had already requested an increase in staff and travel budget for EDIFACT and trade facilitation. He also stated that the upgrading of WP.4 would not undermine the trade-policy and promotion side of the Committee´s activities. He reminded the meeting that he would not create a new Division and trade facilitation would remain under the Trade Division.

78. It was agreed that Mr. de Laurentis would propose to the Committee on the Development of Trade that the report of the WP.4 would go to an ad hoc meeting of the Committee prior to the next session of the Commission. The Committee would then be able to discuss the report from the Ad hoc Group and to forward a recommendation to the Commission.

Committee on Human Settlements

(Consultation held by Mr. U. Rosengarten on 16 December 1994)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. P. Gurtner (Switzerland); Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. R. Lajoie (Canada), Ms. H. Zaniewska (Poland); Chairman WP.5, Mr. U. Christiansen (Denmark) - Chairman WP.6, Mr. S. Brenke (Germany)

79. It was recalled that the ECE Committee on Human Settlements was the only intergovernmental body dealing with human settlements issues on a region-wide scale. Its main objective was assistance to CITs and sustainable human settlements development. The following specific programme elements of special interest to these countries were mentioned:

(a) Country profiles on the housing sector - which was oriented towards analytical assessment of the housing sector and related policies in order to assist Governments in formulating sound housing policies and promote investments in the sector;

(b) Cadaster - which was a prerequisite of any privatization; ownership rights; and modern land management;

(c) Housing modernization - which included such important problems facing housing sectors in CITs as quality of life, energy saving, etc;

(d) Sustainable human settlements development, which should basically be dealt with within the context of economic and social sustainability; and environmental aspects.

80. It was pointed out that the housing sector and construction were the basic economic sectors and essential factors of economic recovery in every country, along with social and political stability in countries in transition.

81. Preparations for the Habitat II Conference were stressed as another important area of Committee activities. Implementation of the four above-mentioned programme elements should constitute a concrete contribution of the ECE to Habitat II.

82. It was said that the cooperation with other ECE sectors, e.g. energy efficiency-2000, environment and transport (on issues relating to urban transport) should be improved.

83. Concern was expressed at the retirement of two staff members and the resulting post vacancies. Serious concern was also expressed about the possible impact on Committee activities resulting from announced ECE budgetary savings.

Inland Transport Committee

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 20 January 1995)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. J. Silva Rodrigues (Portugal); Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Suvorov (Russian Federation)

84. The Bureau informed the Chairman of the Commission of the cooperation with other international bodies dealing with transport. In this connection it highlighted, in particular, that the activities of the ECE Inland Transport Committee had been referred to during the second Pan-European Transport Conference held in Crete and duly reflected in the final declaration.

85. As to the preparatory activities under way for the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, the Chairman was informed that more than thirty Governments had replied to a questionnaire to identify topics and measures for the Conference. On the basis of the replies received the PrepCom was currently considering draft guidelines for a common ECE strategy regarding transport and environment. There was so far no consensus on the possible outcome of the Conference.

86. Furthermore, the importance of assistance to CITs was stressed. The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will convene an ad hoc meeting from 26 to 28 June 1995 in order to make an inventory of the aid provided up to now to countries in transition by western Governments and international financial institutions and to identify further needs of CITs. It was also recommended that a round table be organized during the next

session of the Committee with a view to analysing in more detail questions of assistance to CITs.

87. The question of transport infrastructures was also addressed. In this context it was stated that international transport networks as defined in the AGR, AGC and AGTC agreements were regularly updated and would be extended to the newly independent states. In the same vein the importance of the TEM and TER projects for central and east European countries as well as for the newly independent States was stressed.

88. The Bureau also brought up the question of the establishment of environmental standards in international road transport, which was under consideration in view of a possible revision of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic.

89. The Chairman also noted the amendment to the 1958 Agreement, which will streamline the procedures and allow the enlargement of the agreement to countries having a different system of vehicles approval, including non-ECE countries. He also welcomed the increasing number of Regulations annexed to the Agreement dealing with environmental aspects of vehicles.

90. With regard to road traffic safety it was proposed to establish a link between the Second Road Safety Week to be held in the members countries from 27 March to 2 April 1995 and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

91. Concern was expressed about the suspension of TIR tobacco/alcohol carnets because of increasing fraud, which could endanger the whole TIR transit system. The short-term measures adopted as well as the decision of the Committee to revise urgently the TIR convention were welcomed.

92. The interest of east and central European countries in upgrading the European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways to the status of an agreement was noted. An important step was made in that an international working group was set up in order to deal with this question with a view to the future drafting, jointly with the other organizations concerned, of a possible ADN.

93. Finally, the need to consider transport matters in connection with the pertinent work of other ECE subsidiary bodies, particularly in the fields of energy, trade (EDIFACT) and environment, was also noted.

Conference of European Statisticians

(Consultation held by Ambassador L. Dembinski on 6 February 1995)
Bureau: Chairman, Mr. I. Fellegi (Canada); Vice-Chairmen, Mr. P. Garonna (Italy), Mr. J. Olenski (Poland), Mr. G. Vukovich (Hungary) (absent from the meeting). Permanent observers: Mr. Y. Franchet (EU), Mr. L. Kincannon (OECD).

94. The Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) described the excellent and very effective trilateral cooperation that characterizes the relationship at both the secretariat and government level between the CES, EUROSTAT and OECD. The following separate but mutually reinforcing mechanisms of this cooperation were mentioned in this context:

(a) the integrated presentation of international statistical work in the ECE region, which is the major tool that the Conference and its Bureau now use to coordinate international statistical work undertaken in the ECE region. This presents carefully structured summary information on the statistically-related work that ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD and other leading international organizations active in the region (e.g. ILO, WHO, IMF, etc.) plan to do in the next few years.

(b) annual Joint Programme Review (JPR) meetings which are held by the heads of the statistical services of the three organizations and their senior staff to deal with problems and issues which secretariat staff at the working level have not been able to resolve. Recent meetings have had to deal with fewer outstanding problems and much more with developing cooperative plans for the future.

(c) regular intersecretariat working group meetings which are organized in individual fields of statistics, and which generally take place on the margins of intergovernmental meetings, many of which are now being sponsored jointly by two or more organizations.

95. These mechanisms have proved to be extremely useful for eliminating duplication or overlap in the work programmes of the various organizations, for ensuring that the organizations are not working at cross purposes, and for developing joint programmes for the future.

96. The Bureau emphasized that the same trilateral mechanisms have enabled the most efficient use of resources at both the national and international level. Financial support from the European Union through Eurostat to CITs (e.g. training courses and costs of attendance at ECE meetings) was noted with great satisfaction. In this connection it was also stated that the participation of countries in transition including the newly independent states in the ECE statistics-related meetings was good. A very important role of EUROSTAT, OECD and ECE in assisting the statistical offices in the newly independent States (the former republics of the USSR and those resulting from the former Yugoslavia) to develop their statistical systems was also emphasized.

97. The unquestioned total commitment of the heads of the statistical services of the three organizations to this process of working together essentially as partners has also been a major factor in the success which has been achieved to date. The annual meetings of the CES Bureau and the plenary session of the Conference will be used for promoting further progress.

98. It was stated that links with other PSBs were mainly at the secretariat level. Staff of the Statistical Division serviced or assisted in servicing meetings concerned with statistics in the field of industry, transport, energy, human settlements, environment, agriculture and population.

99. It was noted that the methods of work of the Conference and its Bureau developed for use in the field of statistics were an excellent model which could also be used by other PSBs.

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Fiftieth session
(Provisional Agenda item 6(a))

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Note prepared by the secretariat

1. This note contains the highlights and difficulties encountered in implementing the programme of work, as well as other relevant issues of the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the forty-ninth session, and draws attention to those matters which require the consideration, action or decision of the Commission. It is intended to assist delegations in their review of the ECE programme activities and to direct them to the difficulties as well as to the points of excellence and innovation, in the programme of work, on which they will need to focus attention and give guidance to the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat for the coming year. Accordingly, this note has a specialized function and is not intended to replace the reports of the principal subsidiary bodies (PSBs), which should be consulted for greater detail on matters referred to herein.

2. This document is intended to provide background and substance, in a summary form, for the Programme and Coordination segment of the fiftieth Annual Session, which will consist of (1) a session relating to interaction between various aspects of the Commission's programme of work which lend themselves to cross-sectoral cooperation, a more efficient concentration of resources and more coordinated programme delivery and (2) a session on assistance to countries in transition and the role of regional groupings in a cooperation effort toward this end. To serve the purpose of the first session, an addendum to this document is being issued on cross-sectoral activities in the secretariat and, for the second session, a separate document has been prepared entitled "Cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions and subregional groupings" (E/ECE/1319).

GE.95-20658

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

3. With regard to policy and coordination of the work of the Commission as a whole, the Executive Secretary would like to draw the Commission's attention to the following areas of activity which extend beyond the basic subprogramme structure:

- ECE's contribution to global programmes (see E/ECE/1321)
- Strengthening of ECE's relationship with the OSCE (see E/ECE/1312)
- Strengthening cooperation with Mediterranean States (see E/ECE/1312)

4. Another important area of activity with regard to policy and coordination of the work of the Commission as a whole undertaken since the forty-ninth session is an initiative to strengthen the Commission's contacts with newly independent States. A workshop was held in December 1994 for the republics of the former USSR on the role and functions of the Commission. The workshop served not only to acquaint new ECE member States with the Commission's activities but also to help the secretariat itself better to identify and clarify the priorities and concerns of these countries in transition, for accommodation within the possibilities of ECE's mandate and resources.

5. The NIS workshop produced concrete and practical follow-up activities, in response to specific Government requests, involving the newly added resource of Regional Advisers. Multiple missions to assess already-identified project possibilities are projected for February to June 1995 to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan.

6. In recognition of ECE's development of international legal instruments and its work in norms and standards in many areas, notably transport, environment, trade facilitation, industrial standardization and agriculture, a systematic assessment of the implementation and impact of such conventions, agreements, norms and standards on the process of regional economic integration will be launched in 1995, with special attention to countries in transition.

7. The secretariat would like, in addition, to underline four particular areas in need of special attention by the Commission, as presented by the Executive Secretary at the ad hoc informal meeting on 27 January 1995 (ECE/AC.20/95(1)/1), namely:

- Re-engineering of the ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedure (WP.4) (see TRADE/WP.4/R.1104)

- Redistribution of the Committee on Agriculture activities in the light of FAO restructuring

- Locus of the Energy Charter Protocol for hosting and servicing (see paragraph 103 below)

- Locus and servicing of a European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development (see IND/AC.1/3 and paragraph 108 below)

8. Since the forty-ninth session, the Executive Secretary has embarked on an internal exercise within the secretariat intended to ensure maximum

responsiveness to the needs of the secretariat's clients and to maximize efficiency. This 'strategic planning' exercise began with a retreat for senior staff in May 1994 and has been followed up by a number of task forces on specific areas of management, involving staff at all levels. Some concrete proposals have already emerged which are leading to new practices geared to improving the secretariat's performance.

9. The information on ECE subprogrammes contained in this document falls into three parts: A. Highlights of activities of ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies; B. Matters calling for special attention or action by the Commission; and C. Difficulties encountered.

A. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES

ENVIRONMENT (Sub-programme 01)

10. *Environment for Europe.* The Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe", the central coordinating body for the preparation of the Ministerial Conference to be held in Sofia (Bulgaria) in October 1995, held its second (1-3 June 1994) and third (1-3 November 1994) sessions. A provisional outline for the long-term Environmental Programme for Europe (EPE) was agreed upon and the preparation of draft texts on the EPE outline is under way for the consideration of the Working Group at its fourth session (13-15 February 1995). At this meeting, the Working Group is expected to decide on the draft Sofia Conference agenda and to discuss a preliminary outline for the draft Ministerial Declaration. Substantive topics, such as soil degradation and desertification, transboundary waters, sustainable consumption and production patterns, employment and environment, and industry and environment, are under discussion for possible consideration at the Sofia Conference. As a number of Governments and organizations have provided or pledged to provide financial support to the host country, only a limited amount is still necessary to cover the financing of the Conference.

11. *Environmental Performance Reviews.* The Committee took note of the outcome of the Workshop on Environmental Performance Reviews (Geneva, May 1994), organized in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and decided to undertake in 1994-1996, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, a pilot ECE review of Estonia; the Committee invited delegations to make voluntary contributions for that purpose. At its special session, the Committee took note of the outcome of the pre-mission to Estonia and the willingness of the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany and Ukraine to take part in the review. Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden expressed their willingness to make financial contributions. The Committee also decided to consider the issue of the transfer of responsibility for the pilot reviews from OECD to ECE, including resource implications and the peer review mechanism for the Estonia pilot review, at its second session in May 1995. It reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the ECE secretariat for environmental performance reviews.

12. *The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: New Protocol.* Within the framework of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Executive Body, at a special session at ministerial level, adopted on 14 June 1994 a new Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, based on the concept of critical loads and cost-effectiveness. The

Protocol follows the first, successfully implemented 1985 Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30%.

13. *The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: Two new subsidiary bodies.* At its twelfth session the Executive Body, while reiterating that the highest priority should be given to the development of a strategy for the second step to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes, established two new subsidiary bodies to prepare for protocols on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals, respectively. It also approved for publication the major review of strategies and policies of Parties for the abatement of air pollution.

14. *Progress in Convention implementation.* Progress was made in 1994 in the implementation of the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

15. *Convention on Industrial Accidents: Establishment of Regional Coordinating Centres.* Two ECE Regional Coordinating Centres have been established - one in Budapest on the prevention of industrial accidents and one in Warsaw on industrial accident training and exercises, to enhance the capacity of countries, in particular those in transition, to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. In order to coordinate their functions and assist in attracting resources to support relevant activities, the third Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention in March 1994 set up a Steering Group for Regional Accident Centres.

16. *Regional Adviser to assist with convention ratification and implementation.* A Regional Adviser specialized in environmental protection and management services has been appointed to advise countries in transition on how to identify environmental problems and find solutions and, in particular, to facilitate and assist in the process of ratifying, or acceding to, the three recent environmental conventions.

TRANSPORT (Sub-programme 02)

17. *Inland Transport Committee: major issues.* The fifty-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee met from 16 to 20 January 1995. The main items dealt with included the analysis of the transport situation and emerging development trends in the ECE region, the follow-up to the second Pan-European Transport Conference, the review of the preparatory work for the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment, assistance to countries in transition and the consideration of the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee, which mainly concerned the updating or revision of agreements and conventions as well as other work on areas such as transport infrastructure networks, safety and environmental requirements for road vehicles, road safety regulations and activities, provisions for the safe carriage of dangerous goods, requirements for the efficient development of combined transport and harmonized border crossing procedures.

18. *Analysis of the transport situation and trends.* In reviewing the transport situation and major development trends, the Committee noted, in

particular, measures taken by Governments to improve transport safety and environmental performance and to place their transport systems increasingly under market conditions. In this connection, the Committee noted the endeavours made by Governments of central and eastern European countries to privatize State transport enterprises and to set up a regulatory framework within which market forces and competition can develop. As regards infrastructure, the most marked developments were considered to be the entry into service of the Channel Tunnel in the West and the continuing financial constraints undergone in the East. The difficulties faced in the implementation of the TIR Convention were noted and steps were taken to initiate its revision.

19. *Second Pan-European Transport Conference.* The results of the second Pan-European Transport Conference, which took place in Crete from 14 to 16 March 1994, were reviewed and positively assessed. A specific, programme related, follow-up action was decided, which address the following main issues: further development of the infrastructure networks contained in the AGR, AGC and AGTCV agreements, completion of the AGN, development of infrastructure parameters at border crossings, and revision of the TIR Convention.

20. *Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment.* The work of the Preparatory Committee for the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment was reviewed and assessed positively. An increased participation of central and east European countries and NGOs in the field of transport was, however, considered necessary.

21. *Assistance to CITs.* The Committee requested all its subsidiary bodies to intensify their work on subjects of special interest to these countries. An ad hoc meeting will be organized from 26 to 28 June 1995 to consider ways and forms of rendering assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe. The result of this work should be the elaboration of a programme of action aimed at assistance to countries in transition which should include, inter alia: the organization of workshops and particular studies of interest to those countries; expert evaluation of their new transport legislation relating to transition of their transport industry to market economy, and training of personnel. Also a round table discussion on assistance to economies in transition will take place during the fifty-eighth session of the Committee in 1996.

22. *Growing participation in TEM and TER.* The TEM and TER Projects continued their adaptation to the new political and economic realities in central and eastern Europe, taking into account also the present financial constraints. The number of Governments participating in the projects increased. The importance of the projects for the development of road, rail and combined transport infrastructure in central and eastern Europe, especially in the light of the results of the Crete Conference, was underlined.

23. *Legal instruments increasingly applied.* Two new ECE legal instruments in the field of transport were finalized in the last twelve months, bringing the total number of ECE agreements and conventions in this field to fifty. The number of Contracting Parties to these agreements and conventions continued also to increase: in 1994 a total number of twenty-four States, of which one a non-ECE State, became Contracting Parties to one or more ECE legal instruments. The increase in the number of Contracting Parties concerned a total of twenty-six legal instruments. Most of the new Contracting Parties

were countries from the central and eastern parts of Europe, including newly independent ECE Asian member countries. Noting the importance of the ECE legal instruments for the achievement of a coherent efficient transport system in the ECE region, the Committee invited Governments who had not yet done so to become Contracting Parties to these international legal instruments.

24. *Criteria for the identification of infrastructural bottlenecks and missing links.* A report was finalized on the methodological basis for the definition of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks. The report will be used for the identification of priority investment projects in central and eastern Europe undertaken by the EU in the framework of the G24 transport group. The report will be followed up by work on design and selection of regulatory and infrastructural measures to improve the transport situation.

25. *Mediterranean.* The Committee decided that greater importance should, in future, be attached to the Mediterranean transport problems in the realm of its competence.

26. *Road transport and infrastructures: revision and extension of AGR.* The AGR Agreement is being revised to align the international road network defined therein, the E road network, with the new political and economic realities in the region. The revision concerns particularly the inclusion of new road links in the eastern parts of Europe. A further extension of the E road network to incorporate the international road links of the new Asian States of the former USSR was also decided. This will facilitate the integration of these countries into the European and world economies.

27. *Road transport and infrastructures: Environmental standards in international road transport.* The establishment of environmental standards in international road traffic, e.g. in the Vienna Convention, will be considered by the Committee's subsidiary bodies concerned so that an appropriate technical and legal solution which also takes into account the problems of some central and eastern European countries can be proposed to the next Committee session.

28. *Road transport and infrastructures: Second Road Safety Week.* The second Road Safety Week in the ECE region, considered as an important instrument for reducing the number and gravity of accidents involving young road users, will be held from 27 March to 2 April 1995. Governments were invited to make every effort to ensure that campaigns waged within the second Road Safety Week might be as effective as possible and to ensure the fullest involvement in the campaign of mass media and organizations concerned. Governments were invited to make this week one of the events to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

29. *Road transport and infrastructures: The 1958 Agreement amended.* The safety and environmental regulatory system developed in the framework of the 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts reached 94 Regulations and continued to be updated in 1994. Seven new draft Regulations and thirty amendments to the existing ones, designed to enhance the performance of road vehicles with regard to safety, protection of the environment and energy conservation were adopted. The 1958 Agreement itself was also amended to adapt it to the new needs, streamline the administrative

procedures, improve efficiency of work by introducing majority rules and globalize it by allowing the accession of countries using different approval procedures.

30. *ADR revised; restructuring underway.* In the field of the transport of dangerous goods a new revised edition of ADR was produced. The European Union adopted Directive EC/94/55 establishing that as from 1997 the provisions applicable for the transport of dangerous goods by road in all countries of the EU, including domestic transport, will be those of Annexes A and B of ADR. These annexes are being restructured to facilitate their implementation in international transport but also through national legislation. Activities are also being carried out with a view to keeping ADR and RID (Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail) harmonized with the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and to preparing new amendments for entry into force in 1997.

31. *AGN: nearer to completion.* In the area on inland water transport, the elaboration of a draft European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) entered into its final stage. The final draft text may be completed this year and considered by the Committee at its next session in 1996. A map of European inland waterways was published which for the first time covers the whole European continent and is based on the new classification of inland waterways adopted by the Committee. A White Paper on Trends in and Development of Inland Navigation and its Infrastructure is being prepared with a view to further promoting this mode of transport.

32. *TIR Convention to be revised.* To avoid the disruption of the TIR transit system for which no viable alternative exists for most east-west European road traffic, short-term measures had been recently taken, including the setting up of an informal TIR Contact Group bringing together Customs authorities, investigation departments and other partners. In addition, it was decided that work should be initiated on an urgent revision of the TIR Convention to provide for stable long-term solutions in this field.

33. *1995 Road Traffic Census.* Eighteen countries were reported to have adopted ECE Resolution No. 242 to carry out the 1995 Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census). Governments who had not already done so were encouraged to adopt the resolution.

34. *Rail transport and infrastructure: Harmonization of legal regimes for international rail transport.* Problems created by the existence of two different legal regimes for international rail transport, both passengers and freight, in Europe were brought to the Committee's attention. They will be examined with a view to the removal of the differences.

35. *Study on coastal shipping.* A study has been prepared on the role of coastal shipping as an alternative to land transport in Europe, containing policy options and concrete measures to improve its functioning for combined transport operations.

STATISTICS (Sub-programme 03)

36. *Conference of European Statisticians held in Paris.* The Conference of European Statisticians at its forty-second plenary session in June 1994 further enhanced its role as the principal forum for the coordination of

official statistical work throughout Europe and North America. The fact that it was held at OECD in Paris underlines the close links now forged between the ECE and OECD.

37. *Integrated statistical work programmes.* The previous plenary session in June 1993 was the first which had before it an integrated presentation of the statistical programmes of ECE, OECD and Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities). At the 1994 session the joint presentation also included the statistical work of all major international organizations active in Europe including the IMF, the World Bank and others. The joint presentation is a highly integrated one with common goals so that coordination and collaboration is very much enhanced.

38. *ECE/UNDP regional statistical project.* Changes at UNDP have delayed the planned joint statistical project. However, the net result of the changes is that the ECE will now be the sole executing agency and the project is intended to enhance the statistical capabilities of the national statistical institutes of countries in transition across the region.

39. *Publications developments.* The wide range of ECE statistical publications has now been thoroughly reviewed and generally improved, or discontinued where there appeared to be insufficient interest or value or where the data were largely being published also by other organizations. On the other hand an obvious gap in the range of ECE publications was the lack of any comprehensive statistical guide to our member countries. A new statistical yearbook has therefore been introduced entitled "Trends in Europe and North America". The new publication provides a statistical profile of all 55 member countries, together with comparative data on economic and social life in the region. Similarly, with the help of Statistics Sweden, Eurostat and INSTRAW, the ECE will publish a volume of gender-specific statistics during 1995 to coincide with the Beijing Conference.

40. *Regional Adviser boosts assistance to CITs.* The appointment of a Regional Adviser in May 1994, who is an expert in macro-economic statistics and national accounts, has made a significant difference to the amount of assistance which ECE can give in statistics to countries in transition. The new adviser is working closely with similar experts in other international organizations who are also involved in providing technical assistance in our region.

TRADE FACILITATION (sub-programme 04)

41. *Development of documents, procedures and 'messages'.* The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures has made considerable progress in trade facilitation-related documents, procedures and the development of UN/EDIFACT messages for Electronic Data Interchange.

42. *EDIFACT directories.* In the area of data elements and automatic data interchange, the development of UN/EDIFACT has continued at a fast pace. During its fortieth session, the Working Party approved the UN/EDIFACT D.94A and D.94B directories (draft directories).

43. *Development models.* Utilizing modern software tools, an ad hoc group is working with the development models for international trade transactions. These models should dynamically reflect changes and developments in trade

procedures, and identify those areas where UN/EDIFACT messages could be used. This work is believed to be of particular benefit for countries in transition.

44. *Trade Facilitation and transport.*: The Working Party has started a revision of its Recommendations, including REC. Nr. 11 on the documentary aspects of the international transport of dangerous goods, and REC. Nr. 16 LOCODE. Proposals for Recommendations concerning new procedures in general and specifically those for transport are also under preparation.

45. *EDICORE.* The Working Party has supported and approved the development of a public support database, EDICORE, implemented on the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) ITUDOC auto-answering mailbox system. The database contains Trade Facilitation documentation and UN/EDIFACT. It has proved very useful and makes parliamentary documentation available to delegations as soon as it is received by the secretariat.

46. *Regional Adviser appointed.* A Regional Adviser has been assigned to provide technical and administrative support for trade facilitation in countries in transition. Since assuming his duties in June 1994, the Regional Adviser has visited a number of transition economies to assess their "international trade infrastructure" and identify needs to which WP.4 could respond. Emphasis is placed on strengthening financial support for national trade facilitation organizations or encouraging their establishment. Specific actions have been taken to improve the integration of WP.4's recommendations and standards into the technical assistance provided by other institutions, as well as to develop educational materials on trade facilitation and EDI relevant to transition economies.

47. *Seminar for CITs.* A seminar on trade facilitation and countries in transition was organized by the Regional Adviser in connection with the fortieth session of the Working Party.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (Subprogramme 05)

48. *Major topics of thirtieth session.* The Senior Economic Advisers (SEA) at their thirtieth session in June 1994 focused on the two topics selected by the Bureau, namely (a) restructuring of State-owned enterprises, investment and prospects for recovery in transition economies, and (b) international economic relations in the ECE region in the light of the Uruguay Round outcome. A round-table was organized at the annual session to which outside experts were invited to discuss one of these topics. The Bureau has prepared under its responsibility a summary (issued in addendum to the report of the session) of the main points and major findings emerging from the discussions.

49. *Focus on CITs.* In response to decisions 0 (45) and B (46), more than 80% of the time of the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections is now devoted to the analysis of the economies in transition, economic reforms and related policy issues. This new emphasis is reflected in the Economic Survey of Europe and the Economic Bulletin for Europe, both of which contain an increased coverage of economic and policy developments in the economies in transition. The inclusion in both these publications of an opening chapter dealing with major policy issues has provided a focus for discussion of current issues at sessions of the SEA, the Committee on the Development of Trade and the annual sessions of the Commission. They also contain a number of analyses of special topics concerning the transition process. The economic

analysis prepared for these two publications has also been used by other ECE divisions in the preparation of their annual reports and other publications for their respective PSBs.

50. *Closer interaction between the secretariat and SEA.* ECE's work in the area of economic analysis has considerably benefited from closer interaction than in the past between the secretariat and the SEA. Owing to the new timing of their annual session (June rather than February), the SEA are now regularly supplied with the main findings of the Survey in due time, affording them an opportunity to suggest items that should be highlighted in subsequent issues of the publication. The SEA receive a similarly condensed overview of major developments and policy issues based on the Economic Bulletin for Europe, which assists them in their own work and keeps them abreast of ECE analysis between the annual sessions.

51. *Population research.* The Division for Economic Analysis and Projections is also continuing to implement its four-year, UNFPA-supported population research projects in the following areas: international migration, elderly populations, fertility and family surveys, and population-related policies.

52. *Population Conference follow-up.* The Executive Secretary, addressed the plenary session of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD), (Cairo, September 1994) and met with representatives of countries in transition and those of OECD donor governments. Countries in transition were assisted by the ECE delegation in the preparation of a six-month, immediate post-Cairo follow-up plan, which is now being implemented by these countries in collaboration with the ECE secretariat. This follow-up is in response to the ICPD's call to the international community to provide appropriate assistance to population and development programmes in countries in transition, in view of the difficulties they currently face.

ENERGY (Sub-programme 06)

53. *Streamlining of the Programme of Work.* Efforts are continuing to streamline the programme of work of energy working parties and expert group meetings dealing with issues related to specific energy fuels, so as to ensure the necessary interaction among its three working parties, expert group meetings and workshops dealing with specific issues related to energy resources, such as coal and gas. Emphasis is being placed on integrated energy policy, assistance to economies in transition and interaction with other programmes within ECE, such as environment, and with United Nations and other institutions active in the region.

54. *Working Party on Coal.* The Committee on Energy at its fourth session endorsed the recommendations made by the Working Party on Coal to the Governments of the countries in transition particularly to provide political and financial support for coal industry restructuring; to create urgently the legal conditions and economic incentives for privatizing coal enterprises; and to accelerate further the establishment of environmental legislation/regulations and mining laws for the future development, transportation and use of coal as well as international coal trade. It was underlined that all countries in the region should pursue coal industry restructuring, including government financing of the closure of uneconomic mines. It was suggested that, to this end, regional reconversion programmes could be developed, aiming at the diversification of the industrial

infrastructure of the region. The work programme was fully adapted to the new requirements of the reforms, expanding the application of clean coal technologies. In this regard, an innovative programme "Implementation Programme of Accelerating Clean Coal Technology" (IMPACCT) has been approved to facilitate the financing and commercialization of viable clean coal projects in central and eastern Europe. The secretariat was requested to explore ways to provide support for this project.

55. *Working Party on Electric Power: Symposium on European/Asian/African interconnections approved.* The Committee approved the programme activities set out by the Working Party on Electric Power concerning the development of environmentally friendly coal-fired power stations and possibilities of retrofitting and repowering coal-fired power plants in the light of the development of clean combustion technologies. The importance of the principal programme activity on international interconnection of European power systems was particularly underlined. At its fourth session, the Working Party on Electric Power approved the organization of a Symposium on "Development of European Electric Power Systems and its Interconnections with Grids in Asia and Africa". The Committee invited the Working Parties on Coal and Electric Power to cooperate closely in their activities on clean coal technologies.

56. *Working Party on Gas: Gas Centre approved.* The Committee underlined the importance of the programme activities carried out by the Working Party on Gas related to economic reforms and the restructuring of the gas industry in economies in transition; natural gas and the environment; interconnections and extensions of gas networks in Europe and rational use of gas. Efforts were made to enhance and structure the work carried out by its meetings of experts. In response to the needs of countries with economies in transition which have gas markets, the Working Party on Gas decided at its fourth session to establish the technical cooperation programme "Promotion and Development of a Market-based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition" (Gas Centre). The Centre's main focus will be to enhance cooperation, coordination and exchange of information and knowledge between governments and interested institutions and enterprises, both public and private, on the development and implementation of market-based policies, processes, instruments and principles in the gas industry, concentrating on policy and price issues of the transition, including restructuring and privatization. A Trust Fund to administer the programme was established in July 1994 with actual transfers of US$ 260,000. The first training event under the programme was held in September 1994 in Hungary. Other seminars and on-site technical visits are scheduled for 1995. An Interim Advisory Board was set up to assist in the implementation of the preliminary programme of work including its future development.

57. *Energy efficiency: demonstration zones report endorsed.* The work related to energy efficiency continues to be an important policy priority for both energy and environment. In accordance with the first phase of the Energy Efficiency 2000 programme, all outputs and other results were implemented to specifications and on schedule. The Committee endorsed the report concerning Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones and noted with appreciation the additional results, conclusions and recommendations of the three ad hoc meetings and symposia held within the framework of the Project since the last session of the Committee. The Committee urged interested member States to honour their pledges to the project Trust Fund for 1994. Efforts were made to

secure preparatory assistance to economies in transition related to the programme submitted to Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for financing.

58. *Global Energy Efficiency 21.* In order to propagate the programme related to Energy Efficiency to other regions, in cooperation with the regional commissions, the secretariat will convene the first Steering Committee meeting, possibly in cooperation with the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) during 1995, pending the availability of resources.

59. *New and renewable energy resources.* The newly launched activities on new and renewable energy resources (RSEs) were reviewed and it was decided to continue promoting international cooperation for the advancement of RSE in the ECE region, in close cooperation with governments and international organizations active in this field. The work is to be focused on those sources which have demonstrated market potential. The Committee also recommended increasing interaction between the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission for promoting economically viable RSEs.

60. *Workshops and other forms of technical assistance.* The enhanced outreach of the Energy Division was continued since the last session of the Committee through advisory services, technical cooperation programmes and the organization of six workshops on coal, gas and electric power with the participation of about 500 persons from 25 countries. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue supporting workshops, within available resources, noting with gratitude that some financial assistance had been granted. Market economies, NGOs and businesses have been encouraged to participate in the workshops as a means of facilitating transition and cooperation.

61. *Regional Adviser.* A Regional Adviser on Energy has been appointed to identify areas for technical cooperation with counterparts in the economies in transition, to advise on the preparation of projects and to assist in successfully identifying technical assistance and investment finance for projects in the energy field.

62. *Priorities established.* The Committee decided to give priority to its programme areas on "Energy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe"; "Rational Use of Energy, Efficiency, Conservation"; and "Energy Trade, Trade Facilitation and Infrastructure".

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (Sub-programme 07)

63. *Trade and Investment with special reference to CITs.* At its forty-third session in December 1994, the Committee on the Development of Trade considered trade policy issues in the region with special reference to problems experienced by the countries in transition, based on a number of discussion papers, in particular the study on the impact of foreign direct investment on the trade of countries in transition. Delegates participated actively in the dialogue on ways and means of promoting expansion of trade of the countries in transition, as requested in decision C (49). The secretariat has prepared the study called for in that decision (E/ECE/1311 and Adds 1 and 2).

64. *Round-tables on trade and investment topics.* A round-table discussion on the impact of the positive conclusion of the Uruguay Round, based on a background document prepared by the secretariat on intraregional trade, gave

particular emphasis to the trade of the countries in transition. The theme selected for a round-table during the next session of the Committee is: "Ways of financing trade and investment in the economies in transition".

65. *Seminar on real property transactions in central and eastern Europe.* During the forty-third session of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (WP.5) in September 1994, a seminar was held on the problems surrounding real property transactions involving foreign and domestic investors in central and eastern Europe.

66. *Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (WP.5).* The Committee expressed strong support for the activities of WP.5, noting with satisfaction the growing role of the representatives of the private sector in the countries in transition in the activities of the Working Party. The Guide on the adaptation of property laws in the countries of central and eastern Europe was submitted to the Committee.

67. *Study on financing trade and investment in CITs.* The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a study for its forty-fourth session on ways of financing trade and investment in the economies in transition.

68. *Creation of models of legal instruments for CITs.* WP.5 has prepared a draft Guide with the provisional title: Guide on the adaptation of real property law of countries in transition, including questions of ownership, valuation, security and restitution, property management and brokerage.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (Sub-programme 08)

69. *Depositary of statistical indicators for CITs.* The twenty-first session of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology (SAST), held in September 1994, decided to continue its work aimed at collecting main science and technology indicator statistics for the economies in transition. The Senior Advisers also decided to publish the latest summary submissions to the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology. To date the secretariat, acting as depositary, has in its possession national submissions from 30 ECE Governments and three international organizations.

70. *New activity on sustainable development in CITs.* The Senior Advisers included in their programme of work a new activity entitled "Role of science and technology in securing sustainable development in the economies in transition". Under this activity, three events are scheduled to take place: a second Workshop on Industrial Policies to be held in Budapest in autumn 1995, a Seminar on the Reorganization of Science and Technology Management to be held in the Russian Federation in 1996, and a Seminar on Policies Aimed at Promoting Innovation in Industry to be held in Poland at a date to be determined.

71. *Working Party on the Chemical Industry: future of CHEMISEED; chemical clean-up pilot project; comparative study of chemical legislation; Regional Environmental Management Centre.* At its fourth session in October 1994 the Working Party evaluated the progress made and future action to be taken in the regional programme "Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development" (CHEMISEED). The Working Party supported further work on the pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals, as well as the comparative study of chemical

legislation in ECE member countries. It reaffirmed its interest in the establishment in Poland of a Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry.

72. *Seminars on chemical industry.* A Seminar on Low- and Non-waste Process Technologies in the Chemical Industries will take place in Moscow in September 1995. A Seminar on Innovative Membrane Technologies will take place in 1996.

73. *Statistical analysis in chemical industry.* The Working Party supported the work on further improving the statistical analysis of chemical products and the harmonization of data. Following the success of the Directory of Chemical Producers and Products, work had started on a study on trends in structural and ownership changes in the chemical industries of the economies in transition.

74. *Round-table discussions on sustainable development in the chemical industry.* Regular round-table discussions on selected economic issues and sustainable development in the chemical industry were also organized during the annual session of the Working Party.

75. *Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation: focus on economic analysis, statistics, environmental protection, assistance to CITs:* The thirteenth session of the Working Party was held from 31 October to 2 November 1994. Seven activities in the programme of work focus on priority issues of the Commission, namely economic analysis and statistics, environmental protection and assistance to economies in transition.

76. *Expert group on robotics established.* As a follow-up to a workshop on industrial robotics held in Budapest in September 1994 and the annual publication on robot statistics, an open-ended working group of experts on robotics was established.

77. *Contribution to World Social Summit 1995.* A review publication on Rehabilitation Engineering was prepared for the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995).

78. *Statistical analysis in Engineering Industries and Automation.* The sixteenth Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation was held in conjunction with the PRODCOM Seminar in November 1994. It supported the publication of World Engineering Industries and Automation: Performance and Prospects, 1993-1995, and decided to organize another statistical Seminar in 1995.

79. *European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development.* In response to decision A (49), a Meeting of Experts to consider proposals to convene a possible European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development was held in November 1994 (report IND/AC.1/2). The meeting recommended that the secretariat prepare an analytical document (IND/AC.1/3), taking stock of current activities in the field of sustainable industrial development, the added value which ECE could contribute in this field, and a list of priority issues of common interest to all member countries, for consideration at the possible Forum, so that a final decision on the convening of the Forum on identified priority issues could be taken at the fiftieth session of the Commission.

80. *Working Party on Standardization Policies: focus on assistance to CITs.* At its fourth meeting in May 1994 the Working Party reviewed developments in the fields of coordination, harmonization, conformity assessment and metrology at the international, regional and national levels and paid particular attention to assistance to the countries in transition with a view to adapting existing structures to market conditions and to assisting newly independent States to build adequate institutions.

81. *Workshops and seminars.* Workshops on conformity assessment were held in Budapest (Hungary) and Minsk (Belarus) in December 1994. At a meeting of Office-Bearers, Coordinators and Rapporteurs held in Paris in September 1994, agreement was reached on the provisional programme for a training seminar on industrial and legal metrology for countries in transition to be held in March 1995.

82. *Working Party on Steel: four main areas of activity agreed.* At its fourth session in October 1994, the Working Party on Steel confirmed the orientation of its work in four main areas of activity: the management of the evolution of the steel industry; the collection and analysis of statistics; the restructuring of the steel sector in countries in transition; and the protection of the environment. It placed particular emphasis on the last two areas and emphasized the importance of the new regional programme on Metallurgy and Ecology, the aim of which was to encourage sustainable development in the steel industry.

83. *Seminars on steel industry.* The Working Party approved the organization in Hungary in 1996 of a Seminar on Processing, Utilization and Disposal of Waste in the Steel Industry, and the elaboration of a bibliography of environmental publications in the steel sector. It decided to organize a Seminar on Privatization and Structural Changes in the Steel Industry in Countries in Transition in 1997 and to launch a study on restructuring and changing ownership in the steel industry. Delegations strongly supported efforts made to improve the collection and dissemination of statistics since they were the basis of all substantive work.

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER (Sub-programme 09)

84. *Focus of forty-fifth session.* The forty-fifth session of the Committee on Agriculture took place from 16 to 19 May 1994. The main substantive topic was the review of the role of farmers and professional organizations in the elaboration and implementation of agricultural policies in the region, with special emphasis on countries in transition. The main topic selected for the up-coming forty-sixth session of the Committee is the institutions and policies related to agricultural markets and their impact on regional trade.

85. *Resolution on ECE/FAO cooperation.* The Committee adopted a resolution on "Cooperation between UN/ECE and FAO in the Field of Agriculture in Europe", appealing to the FAO Council to ensure that the review of programmes, structures and policies of FAO should not impede the existing capacity of the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division in Geneva to service the Committee on Agriculture. Since that time, FAO has taken decisions on the redeployment of its staff presently in the Joint Division and held consultations with ECE on future arrangements for cooperation, the implications of which are examined in the following sections B, C and D.

86. *Codex Alimentarius.* Discussions are under way with the FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on coordination of activities in the field of commercial quality standards for international trade of fresh fruits and vegetables.

87. *Workshops on Agriculture.* Workshops for countries in transition covered the topics of standards and quality control for agricultural and food produce; environmentally sound agriculture; and agricultural statistics.

88. *Timber Committee focus on UNCED and Helsinki follow-up.* The Timber Committee held its fifty-second session from 10 to 13 October 1994. It reaffirmed highest priority to activities which contribute to the follow-up to UNCED and to the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe. In addition to regular activities such as statistics and the timber market review, it examined in depth the activities of its teams of specialists and adopted a General Statement of Obligations and a proforma mandate which should guide the teams in their work.

89. *ECE secretariat as International Coordinator for Helsinki Resolution H3.* The Committee approved the role of the secretariat as the International Coordinator in monitoring the implementation of the Helsinki Conference Resolution H3 on Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition, which is integrated with the review of the activities of the Timber Committee for assistance to countries in transition.

90. *Timber publications.* Preparation proceeded for the fifth European Timber Trends study with publication expected in 1996; and a decision was made to initiate work on the issue of certification of forest products, on the outlook for non-wood goods and services of the forest, and on the preparation of the next forest resource assessment (2000).

91. *Workshops on Timber.* Workshops for countries in transition covered the valuation of all goods and services from the forest; the impact of climatic change; the issues of forest management in forest areas contaminated by radiation; and the marketing of sawnwood products.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Sub-programme 10)

92. *Habitat II: follow-up task force and Prepcom II.* Pursuant to decision I (49) the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was held on 12 September 1994. As a follow-up to the Regional Preparatory Meeting, the Committee on Human Settlements established a task force to assist the Committee in carrying out the preparatory work. The Committee agreed that its contribution to Habitat II will be based on its ongoing work e.g. guidelines for sustainable human settlements planning and management, guidelines on land administration, strategies for implementing renewal and modernization policies and country profiles on the housing sector. An analytical report "Towards sustainable human settlements development in the ECE region" will be also prepared and its draft will be submitted to the Habitat II Prepcom II.

93. *Workshops and informal consultations.* For 1995, 12 workshops have been announced by various ECE countries, basically on transition issues, which is a reflection of the importance of the human settlements issues for countries in

transition. However, to maximize secretariat resources, the topics for workshops will be aligned with those of the priority projects of the Committee's programme of work.

94. *Country profiles and Habitat II.* The Committee agreed to carry out the project on country profiles on the housing sector of the ECE countries, with special reference to countries in transition, and the preparatory process for Habitat II. The objective of the project is to analyse the housing sector as a key part of the national economy to help national authorities in countries in transition in formulating sound housing policies and to support investment decisions of national and international financial institutions and private investors. The first two country profiles will be implemented in Bulgaria and in Poland. By June 1996 (Habitat II), it is planned to carry out this project in three ECE countries. Delegations of Belarus, Romania and the Russian Federation indicated their interest in carrying out the project in their countries. The delegations of Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden supported the project by contributions to the Trust Fund on Human Settlements or "in kind".

95. *Workshops task force on guidelines.* A number of workshops on cadastre and land registration systems and the work of the task force on guidelines on land administration revealed a strong interest among the ECE member States in this field and a recommendation was made to the Committee on Human Settlements to strengthen its activities in this area. Promotion of cadastre activities is essential for the privatization process in countries in transition and could be beneficial for other activities in the ECE, including its priority areas, since there is a strong cross-sectoral component. Work is also continuing on the preparation of guidelines on sustainable human settlements planning and management and on strategies to implement human settlements policies on renewal and housing modernization. Task forces composed of national experts meet regularly to carry out this work.

B. MATTERS CALLING FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION OR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENT (subprogramme 01)

96. *Follow-up on recommendations by the Committee on Environmental Policy at Special Session.* The Commission may wish to take a decision on action recommended by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its Special Session (ECE/CEP/8, para. 8(b)) as a follow-up to the report on problems and bottlenecks in the field of environment and sustainable development (ECE/CEP/12).

97. *Ratification of Conventions.* In addition the Commission may invite Governments to speed up the ratification of the conventions and protocol and to provide the necessary extrabudgetary funds to undertake without delay the EPRs.

TRANSPORT (subprogramme 02)

98. *Sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).* Being once again informed of serious problems experienced on the Danube by vessels in transiting via the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as a result of the present procedure for

issuing transit licenses applied within the framework of implementation of the UN sanctions against this country, the Committee asked the Commission to consider this question again with a view to mitigating the problem.

STATISTICS (subprogramme 03)

99. *Statistical publications.* The Commission asked the Conference of European Statisticians to review the statistical publications in the ECE. A final report was submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians Plenary Session in June 1994 and was approved. The report is now being submitted to the Commission for its approval (ECE/CES/41).

100. *Fundamental Principles.* The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as approved by the Commission were accepted unchanged by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its special session in April 1994 and were transmitted to all regional commissions.

TRADE FACILITATION (subprogramme 04)

101. *Re-engineering of WP.4.* During its thirty-eighth session, a seminar was held on the future role and policies of the Working Party, resulting in the establishment of an ad hoc group with the task of re-engineering the work of the Working Party. A final report from the ad hoc group will be submitted to the March 1995 session of the Working Party and to the Committee on the Development of Trade. It proposes structural and operational changes to WP.4.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (subprogramme 05)

102. *Resources needed to meet quality standards of decision B (46).* Consideration should be given to providing additional resources to the secretariat in order to maintain the "high quality observation and analysis" of the transition economies as called for in decision B (46) in the light of the sharp increase in ECE membership.

ENERGY (subprogramme 06)

103. *Energy Efficiency Protocol of the European Energy Charter.* As a follow-up to the decision taken during its third session "that every effort should be made to support the European Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and related Environmental Aspects", the Committee requested the secretariat to pursue its consultation with the secretariat of the European Energy Charter on possible modalities for cooperation. Consultations were held with the Secretary-General of the European Energy Charter on legal and procedural aspects of possible cooperation. The Committee will be informed of progress made at its fifth session.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (subprogramme 07)

104. *Follow-up for study on trade in CITs.* When the fiftieth session of ECE considers the report on the decision C (49) study on ways to provide trade in the CITs, it will be important to allocate adequate resources for any follow-up work. The study identifies many specific measures, but it will be necessary to elaborate them in much more detail if they are to have a practical effect and directly benefit the CITs. This work would be beyond the scope of the current work programme and resources of the secretariat, and such

follow-up would require contributions from other PSBs, not only the Committee on the Development of Trade.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (subprogramme 08)

105. *Annual session requested for Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation.* The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation requested the Commission to allow it to hold its sessions annually from 1995.

106. *Global Review of the European Iron and Steel Industry.* The continuation of the work of the Working Party on Steel, in close cooperation with the EC, the World Bank, EBRD, OECD, IISI, and the steel industry itself, on the Global Review of the European Iron and Steel Industry constitutes an important element of the Commission's work in the industry and technology sector, and could be seen as a model for similar cooperation in work on the chemical industry and engineering industries and automation.

107. *Contribution to the World Summit for Social Development.* The Commission, at its fiftieth session, may wish to recognize the United Nations sales publication Rehabilitation Engineering as one of ECE's contributions to the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995).

108. *European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development.* The Group of Experts which met in response to decision A (49) to examine proposals to convene a European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development recommended that the secretariat prepare an analytical document on the subject (IND/AC.1/3) and that a final decision on the convening of the Forum be taken by the Commission at its fiftieth session.

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER (subprogramme 09)

109. *Reorganization of agriculture and timber activities.* The Executive Secretary will be taking all steps necessary for the required services to be reorganized following the termination of the joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (subprogramme 10)

110. *Regional preparatory process for Habitat-II.* The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Conference on Human Settlements stated that ECE should affirm its role in the regional Habitat II preparatory process by defining its contribution to Habitat II as a distinct element in its revised medium-term plan as well as in the work programmes of its relevant Principal Subsidiary Bodies.

111. *Cooperation in OECD and Council of Europe projects.* Close contact is also being maintained with the OECD's project on Ecological Cities and the Council of Europe's project on a Model of Sustainable Development for Urban Regions.

C. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

112. Several general areas of difficulty are evident across the spectrum of the various subprogrammes.

Participation in ECE meetings of countries in transition

113. One is already well-known to our member States. That is the inability on the part of many of the countries in transition, in particular those of central Asia, to attend ECE meetings. In spite of clear indications of interest in trade and investment, industrial restructuring and other vital activities, expressed by a number of countries in transition, particularly the newly independent States, their participation in ECE meetings has been limited by scarcity of financial resources and lack of convertible currencies. Without region-wide representation at expert meetings and Principal Subsidiary Bodies, it is clear that one of the strong comparative advantages of the ECE, namely to bring together countries from both ends of the economic spectrum, meeting problems with solutions and answers, is compromised.

114. The secretariat is continually seeking ways to secure financing from member States and other sources - both for the organization of workshops and for funding the participation of delegations. To this end, the trust fund for assistance to countries in transition (TFACT) was established. There are, however, some constraints on the use of these funds. Current United Nations rules impose certain restrictions that prevent use of TFACT funds for regular meetings, limiting their use to assistance for workshops, seminars and other training-related events, as well as for conventions. To maximize the benefit of such funds, therefore, as far as possible and when there are sound and reasonable grounds for doing so, such training exercises and conventions are being scheduled to coincide with important meetings to facilitate participation of countries in transition.

115. Even for these limited uses of TFACT, however, contributions are still insufficient to meet the needs. In the case of environment and sustainable development, for example, at its twelfth session, the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution invited Parties to contribute temporarily to TFACT to facilitate the participation of countries from central and eastern Europe, while also encouraging parties, to the extent possible, to finance their own participation in the activities under the Convention. Although the Committee on Environmental Policy has received extrabudgetary funds from member Governments for the Trust Fund, earmarked for environmental activities to facilitate the participation of countries in transition in its activities, the sums are inadequate to the demand.

116. Member countries are therefore once more encouraged to contribute to TFACT and to pursue, in cooperation with the secretariat, creative ways to improve participation by these countries to assure a balanced dialogue and the usefulness of the ECE as a key forum for market integration.

117. PHARE and TACIS funds have to some extent been made available to meet this gap, notably in the area of statistics. This assistance has been offered irrespective of the involvement of the EU in the organization of any given statistical meeting. This is a most welcome example of the assistance that the secretariat would like to see extended to other activities.

Hosting of workshops and seminars by CITs

118. A related difficulty is the inability or lack of interest of countries to host and to fund workshops and seminars that have been planned and adopted in the work programme. An evaluation of the workshop programme has revealed that, while more ECE-organized workshops have been held or planned between the forty-ninth and fiftieth Annual Sessions than in any previous one-year period, more workshops are being held in fewer countries - both transition and full-market economy - and reduction in the availability of resources was registered. (See document E/ECE/1310). Since the endorsement of the programme by the Commission was made conditional on it being carried out within existing resources, the financial burden has fallen on those countries for whom it is primarily intended but who are often least able to supply the necessary resources.

119. For example, at the request of the governments of Albania and the FYRM, the secretariat was in the process of preparing two workshops on trade related issues, but due to financial constraints in the host countries, both have been postponed for an indefinite period. Also due to financial difficulties, the Polish authorities were unable to host the seminar on state policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation in industry in 1993 or 1994 as planned by the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology (SAST). The Seminar was rescheduled to be held at the end of 1995, but the issue of financing is still unresolved.

120. The demand for workshops has nevertheless increased, supported by the decision of the forty-ninth session of the Commission to continue and to strengthen the programme. The value of the programme has been self-confirming and nearly 150 demand-driven workshops have thus far been organized under ECE auspices. The host country sustains the largest share of the financial aspects of the workshops, even when assisted by TFACT, the business community or government and private sponsors from market countries. It becomes, for some of these countries, increasingly difficult to maintain a sufficient level of support. Additionally, the Asian Republics which have become members only recently may be in even less of a position to support this activity on their own. The TFACT was set up to provide extrabudgetary resources to mitigate financial difficulties, but member State contributions to this fund have, to date, failed to adequately meet this need.

Increase in tasks without secured increase in resources: practical consequences

121. On the part of the secretariat itself. the main difficulties in programme delivery stem from the very large increase in membership with no increase in resources. As a result of the significant increase in the number of the countries in transition and the necessity to cover developments in this region, the resources available to the secretariat are insufficient to respond effectively to the new requirements.

122. The secretariat faces considerable difficulty in meeting the Commission's request for "high quality observation and analysis" of the economies in transition (decision B (46)). The number of economies in transition which need to be analysed has risen from 8 to 26. This has meant a commensurate increase not only in the required volume of economic analysis but also in the tasks of collecting and processing the necessary statistical data. Data

collection is a significantly more onerous task, and data editing now presents a burden many times greater than when the ECE had only 34 members just a few years ago.

123. The secretariat has increased its contacts with statistical offices in the countries in transition, has tried to improve cooperation with other international organizations, and has set up a joint unit to meet the increased demands for the collection and analysis of statistical data, as called for in decision 0 (45). Despite some progress in these directions, available resources of personnel, equipment and funds for travel and consultancies are inadequate to respond effectively to the new situation. Standards cannot be maintained in these circumstances, despite increased efficiency through new methods and the use of new technology. The Statistical Division is one among others seeking, on this basis, to discontinue some activities so that others can be maintained at acceptable levels of quality.

124. Among other programme elements that have suffered from the increased demands on diminishing resources is the publication of the guidelines prepared by the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (WP.5) which has been delayed. Another is in the area of trade facilitation. Due to the demand for new EDIFACT Messages, the work to produce the EDIFACT directories has increased substantially. Thus, during 1994 the secretariat was unable to produce all the planned directories, and the Standards directory (S.94A) was cancelled. Efforts to produce EDIFACT directories are also hampered by a lack of travel funds. However, additional resources (in the form of one P-post) were made available during the fall of 1994, and the D.95A directory was produced as planned. These resources are expected to continue in 1995 enabling the secretariat to meet the demands of WP.4 with regard to EDIFACT directory production.

125. Other work items, suffering from lack of staff resources are, e.g., the updating of the UN Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDED), the Code for Ports and other Locations (LOCODE) and the development of a model for the International Trade Transaction (ITT) and the Basic Semantic Repository (BSR). Additional resources are also needed to handle questions related to commercial procedures and to be able to promote best business practices.

Growing demand for operational activities requiring resources and travel

126. In addition to workshops and seminars, countries in transition are increasingly requesting technical assistance from the ECE. For example, in connection with UNFPA-supported research projects, assistance is being provided by the staff in charge of implementing the projects at the cost of failing to meet certain project deadlines, leading to delays in implementation. To help allay this difficulty, a request has been made in the submission for the 1996-97 budget for a regional adviser for population who could respond to this increased demand for assistance.

127. Financing is indeed one of the major constraints to meeting the growing demand, particularly for operational activities in all sectors, to assist economies in transition. To overcome this obstacle, cooperative arrangements with other organizations active in the region have to be further strengthened, including fund-raising activities.

128. It is equally true for all sectors that in order to cooperate effectively with other institutions to avoid duplication and to maximize human and overall resources, additional travel resources are necessary - an investment that would presumably be returned many fold in the form of increased programme efficiencies.

129. For example, in standardization work, cooperation with the European Commission and OECD should be further intensified through jointly sponsored projects. The ECE could serve as a platform for the extension of activities, which are already underway in developed economies, to the economies in transition. This could lead to greater harmonization of standards and regulations in different sectors across the ECE region, and related efficiencies.

130. Although the programme of work in the field of standardization and related activities can be carried out with the currently vailable resources, the Working Party on Standardization Policies noted that the lack of travel funds available for this programme presented problems in as far as the secretariat's ability to effectively follow-up on coordination and harmonization activities was concerned. The extremely low level of travel funds has also been cited by ECE statistical staff as preventing them from meeting counterparts in other organizations with whom they are trying to cooperate.

131. Additional professional posts are required to meet the increasing priority tasks, for example, for the extension of the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme to ECE countries which are non-members of OECD, and the further development of the "Environment for Europe" process, as a follow-up to the 1993 Lucerne Ministerial Conference. The Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme will begin in 1996/1997, and it is expected that this activity will be supported by the regular budget. Additional professional and general service posts have also been requested in the submission for the 1996-97 budget to permit the secretariat to face this new responsibility as well as new tasks related to the Environment for Europe process. Delegations were invited to provide voluntary contributions in cash or in kind to strengthen the secretariat in servicing these new activities. Although the ECE has received extrabudgetary contributions from several member countries for the Estonian review and EPR capacity building activities, further funds are required for 1995/1996.

Administrative delays in recruitment jeopardize implementation of work programme

132. Apart from a shortage of posts, filling vacancies is also a problem. Difficulties for many programmes have arisen as a result of certain rigidities in the recruitment system which have meant that professional vacancies have normally persisted for at least a year, resulting in reduction of available resources. Administrative delays are often considerable and there are an increasing number of restrictions on the ability of ECE to choose, on substantive grounds, the most appropriate candidates for appointment. This is particularly important in maintaining the production schedule of the Economic Survey and Bulletin, which is critical to the timeliness of the analysis.

133. Another concrete example of disruption of work owing to recruitment delays is the protracted vacancy of the post of Timber Section Chief, which

has resulted in certain delays in the publication of studies of the Timber Committee. Otherwise, the activities under the programmes of work of the Committee on Agriculture and the Timber Committee have been generally conducted as scheduled. The priorities indicated by the Committee have served to guide the secretariat in adapting delivery to available resources.

134. The implementation of the regular programmes of work of the Working Parties on Steel and the Chemical Industry, to cite another example, were slowed down by the continued vacancy of two professional posts in 1994. A partial offset was provided by the trust fund "Industry - Structural Change and Development" (ISCAD), established to provide technical assistance to the countries in transition. Three experts were made available to the secretariat in 1994 from chemical and steel companies in Belgium, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The secretariat welcomes and encourages the supplementing of scarce UN resources in this way.

135. It is hoped that the recent decisions related to decentralisation taken by the Secretary General and the efforts toward simplification of procedures will speed up the recruitment process. The Executive Secretary had several encouraging conversations on this matter with the head of the Office for Human Resource Management and the head of Administration.

Conventions and legally binding instruments

136. There is sometimes difficulty in achieving consensus as to the modalities of legally binding international instruments. This is the case, for example, with regard to the incorporation into a legally binding international instrument of provisions on inland water transport using combined transport techniques, contained in Resolution No. 240 of the Inland Transport Committee. Such a legal instrument would establish standards for the development of combined transport on inland waterways.

137. Another example is the lack of consensus among member governments as to the upgrading to a legally binding European agreement (ADN) of the European provisions concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways. It was decided instead to set up an international working group for the future elaboration, in cooperation with the other interested organizations, of such a European agreement. The secretariat was invited to consult the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), the Danube Commission (DC) and the Governments concerned to define as soon as possible the terms of reference and working modalities of such group as far as the elaboration of the agreement is concerned. In addition to a dramatic increase in the activities on the transport of dangerous goods and to insufficient secretariat resources to adequately cope with such an increase, the provisions which had been updated in 1993 as requested in decision F (48) could not be produced and circulated by the secretariat in 1994. Despite the various decisions by the Commission calling on member countries and the European Community to speed up ratification of the three new environmental conventions and protocols to the LRTAP, an insufficient number of ratifications has been submitted to New York over the last three to four years to assure the prompt coming into force of these conventions. While they nonetheless serve the purpose of setting standards, striving for convergence of relevant policies and providing conflict-prevention procedures, without the requisite ratification, they hold only the force of moral suasion and risk losing momentum.

138. The Inland Transport Committee stressed the importance of successfully concluding the restructuring of ADR as rapidly as possible and asked the RID/ADR Joint Meeting to ensure that the restructuring could come into effect on 1 January 1997 when the provisions of the Annexes to ADR would become applicable to domestic traffic operations.

Restructuring of FAO/ECE Cooperation

139. FAO's decision to restructure its cooperation with the ECE and its plans to withdraw some of its staff from the ECE/FAO Joint Unit at Geneva will entail certain adjustments for ECE's future work in agriculture and timber. FAO will implement the redeployment of its staff during the first semester of 1995.

140. In the timber and forestry area, FAO will place its Geneva staff under the responsibility of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva, with a mandate to continue statistical publications (the Timber Bulletin), analytical studies and reviews of timber markets and forestry issues, and to service intergovernmental bodies in cooperation with its relevant headquarters units. The staff will continue to be hosted in ECE premises. Accordingly, no change is expected in the capacity of the UN/ECE secretariat, in cooperation with the FAO Liaison Office, to service the Timber Committee and its joint ECE/FAO subsidiary bodies and to implement their programme of work with a somewhat different administrative arrangement. Since the post of Director of the AGRI/TIM Division is being withdrawn by FAO, the management of the ECE Timber Section will be transferred to the Trade Division.

141. In the agriculture area, FAO will leave no staff in Geneva. Consequently, special arrangements are being made to service the Committee on Agriculture and its subsidiary bodies until 1 July 1995. Consultations with FAO as well as internal arrangements within the secretariat are in progress to ensure delivery of essential services for intergovernmental meetings to be held in the second half of 1995. FAO will assume responsibility for two publications thus far prepared by the Joint Division, namely the Review of Agricultural Trade and the Prices of Selected Agricultural Products and Inputs in Europe and North America. The ECE Statistical Division will continue to provide services to the joint FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe. The latter could be reestablished as a subsidiary body of the Conference of European Statisticians, without new implications in terms of the programme of work of this PSB. No additional resources would be required, as the Statistics Division already supplies the substantive inputs required for this Study Group. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development could similarly be reestablished as a subsidiary body of the Committee on the Development of Trade. The activities of the Working Party are directed towards the promotion and facilitation of international trade between and to UN/ECE countries and therefore directly relevant to the concerns of this PSB. The upgrading of one ECE post is being requested for the next biennium to replace the FAO post which has been servicing this activity. The future of the Committee on Agriculture, the Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment and the Working Party on Economics of the Agri-food Sector and Farm Management is under discussion. To maintain them, even with the promised substantive support from FAO, would require two additional posts in Geneva (one at the P and one at the G level).

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SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Note prepared by the secretariat

ADDENDUM

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. This note has been prepared to accompany the Summary Document (E/ECE/1315). It is intended as a supportive document to provide background information and to stimulate thinking for open discussion during the Programme and Coordination segment of the fiftieth Annual Session. The half-day session to which this document relates is dedicated to discussing the interaction between various aspects of the Commission's programme of work which lend themselves to cross-sectoral cooperation, leading to a more efficient concentration of resources and more coordinated programme delivery.

2. Both existing cross-sectoral interaction and suggestions for expanded or additional interfacing are grouped according to four major categories of activity. The first is various synergies revolving around environmental and general sustainable development activities. Here environmental concerns take in Transport, Energy, Timber, Agriculture, Senior Economic Advisers, and even Human Settlements and Statistics, with further potential noted for Timber/Energy, Industry and Technology, Agriculture and Trade.

3. Another category of interaction revolves around Statistics. This category covers all ECE sectors, with special reference to Economic Analysis and Projections, Energy, Industry and Technology, Agriculture and Human Settlements.

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4. A third category centres on current and potential Trade-related synergies, which include, notably, Economic Analysis and Projections, Transport and Environment (especially with reference to UN/EDIFACT), as well as Energy, Industry and Technology and Agriculture and Timber.

5. A final general category of interdivisional cooperation presented herein is in standardization and norm-setting, particularly important - as is the case with statistical matters - for the conceptual, political or technical problems in the PSBs which are addressing them. The obvious need to synergize in the normative area has been assured by an inter-divisional team on standardization, fostering joint seminars involving Agriculture and Timber and Industry and Technology, Energy, Transport and Human Settlements, with further potential noted for Trade.

Main conclusions and issues

6. From the review below, the following conclusion can be drawn and issues raised for consideration by the Commission.

(a) There is already an important interaction between the different subsidiary bodies as well as between the Divisions as illustrated in the following paragraphs. The interaction is considered useful as long as it is mutually beneficial. At the secretariat level the development of multidisciplinary cooperation has to be the result of an organic process and must be reflected in the programme of work. That would be more easily achieved if subsidiary bodies were to incorporate multidisciplinary elements in their own work programme.

(b) In the following paragraphs, areas where further interaction could be considered are mentioned. The Commission may wish to ask the PSBs to consider some or all of them and may also suggest other areas for closer interaction.

(c) In most meetings of subsidiary bodies, there is a standard agenda item on activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs) related to the work of that body. The Commission may wish to ask for next year a report by the chairperson of the main PSBs on lessons drawn and advice taken on the basis of debates related to this agenda item and to make suggestions as to how to make them more constructive.

(d) The issues and activities selected in this part of the Summary Document are those which are conducive to cross-sectoral cooperation. Each of the Chairpersons of the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Committee on Energy, the Senior Economic Advisers and the Conference of European Statisticians, may be incited to convene a meeting with chairpersons or a representative of the bureau of the PSB with which interaction exists or should exist in order to plan this future development.

Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment, Environment for Europe, and related issues pertinent to cross-sectoral cooperation for sustainable development

7. An inter-sectoral activity already well-known to the Commission is the preparatory work for the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment. Four meetings of the Preparatory Committee have already been

held. Careful attention has been given to assuring an adequate balance of Government representation from both the transport and environment sectors. For its part, the Committee on Environmental Policy urged delegations to ensure that the role of environmental representatives was sufficiently prominent in the preparatory process and underlined the importance of electing a vice-chairman representing environmental interests at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. The Committee on Human Settlements also agreed to cooperate in the preparation of the Conference.

8. Close cooperation was also established at secretariat level with the environment and energy sectors in the preparation of the Conference. Among other things, the questionnaire to Governments to identify the topics to be dealt with by the Conference and to take stock of the measures already applied or under consideration was drafted by the Transport Division, taking into account discussions and written comments from the Divisions of Environment and Energy as well as Statistics. On the basis of the replies provided by more than thirty Governments to the questionnaire, the secretariat prepared useful documentation which was considered a solid basis for the identification of the topics to be dealt with by the Conference and the preparation of its final documents.

9. A similar close interaction is demonstrated by the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics under the auspices of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Senior Economic Advisers. Their work includes the promotion of the use of economic instruments for environmental policies and, in particular, the extension to the entire ECE region of relevant guidelines prepared by OECD for its member countries.

10. The Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Sofia in October 1995 has strong cross-sectoral support. The Environment for Europe Programme itself incorporates the integration of environmental policy with transport policy (see E/ECE/1316), and other interaction and inputs have been strengthened among working parties and the Project Steering Committee reporting to the Committee on Energy, as well as with other PSBs, particularly those dealing with Environment, Statistics, Transport and Human Settlements, in view of the close cross-sectoral linkages. For example, the Committee on Human Settlements requested the secretariat to provide all necessary energy-related inputs for the Conference.

11. Similar inputs are being provided for the preparation of Habitat II. The Regional Preparatory meeting for Habitat II stated that ECE's contribution should make full use of the work and capacity of different relevant subsidiary bodies and that a task force should be set up within the Commission to monitor the regional contributions. Such a task force has been established under the title of Interdivisional Coordination Group.

12. There is in addition a need for cooperation on the housing indicators elaborated by Habitat/World Bank, and the Committee on Human Settlements expressly recognized the importance of its cooperation with the Conference on European Statisticians.

13. A Task Force has been established jointly by the Committee on Environmental Policy (Working Party on Water Problems) and the Committee on Agriculture (FAO/ECE Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment) which has elaborated Draft Guidelines on the prevention and

control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, which are expected to be finalized in 1995.

14. The relationship already existing between Environment and Energy can also be strengthened and linked with Timber, by expanding on, for example, wood-for-energy questions, and sustainable management of forests. The Timber Committee has already endorsed the principle of a workshop on the use of wood for energy to bring together wood energy experts with policy makers in the field of Energy and Environment. The secretariat has taken steps to seek the concurrence of the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Environmental Policy in securing the active participation of senior policy makers in this workshop. Timber might at the same time team up with Energy to study renewable sources of energy.

15. More generally, the emphasis within the Timber Committee on follow-up to UNCED and the Helsinki Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe leads to substantial cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, while its core activity on timber and timber markets and trade lends itself to strengthened cooperation with the Committee on the Development of Trade with regard to commercial aspects. Further synergies could be obtained by involving Transport for trade-related questions of infrastructure.

16. Another possible inter-sectoral link-up for Timber might be a joint activity on forest technology, management and training which could be expanded to include Industry and Technology. In the related agricultural sector, transport networks and the transport of dangerous goods provide fertile ground for interface.

17. Proposals to convene a possible European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development were discussed at the Meeting of Experts convened for this purpose in November 1994, in accordance with decision A (49). In accordance with the meeting's recommendations, the secretariat prepared an analytical document "Sustainable Industrial Development in Europe" (IND/AC.1/3), taking stock of current activities in the field of sustainable industrial development, the added value which ECE could contribute in this field, and a list of priority issues of common interest to all member countries, for consideration at the possible Forum. The European Industrial Forum, if approved by the Commission, would have a strong cross-sectoral orientation and support. All ECE Divisions could significantly contribute to the preparations and outcome of the Forum. A final decision on the convening of the Forum on identified priority issues is to be taken at the fiftieth session of the Commission.

Interaction of Energy Efficiency in Other Sectors or Activities of the ECE

18. Energy efficiency is a cross sectoral issue that relates in a variety of ways to the work of most PSB and has done so for over a decade. Indeed, the widespread interest in energy matters lead to the establishment of the ECE Inter-Divisional Task Force on Energy during the early 1980s which contributed to the preparation of the book An Efficient Energy Future. Each Division of the ECE secretariat, as they were constituted at that time, contributed to the energy demand projections to the year 2000 for that book with data and forecasting assumption on world trade, baseline data, economic growth, energy supply projections, human settlements, transport, and industry. The final draft of the book was reviewed by the Task Force in late 1981.

19. At present, energy efficiency activities are carried out under the Committee on Energy, the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project and through the activities of different PSBs and Working Parties of the ECE. Interaction takes place mainly through organising joint seminars or meetings; participation of delegates from different Working Parties in energy efficiency activities or Energy Efficiency 2000 Project events; use of data and information in energy efficiency policy studies; use of guidelines and analyses in energy efficiency demonstration zones; reporting to annual sessions of Working Parties on energy efficiency activities; issuing joint papers on energy efficiency issues of interest to two Working Parties; and an annual review of energy conservation policies at the Committee on Energy.

20. Further enhancement of cross-sectoral cooperation in this field would most likely require establishing a new Inter-Divisional Task Force on Energy Efficiency, with adequate budgetary resources to fulfil its mandate. Energy efficiency demonstration zones would offer the most productive form of cooperation for all PSBs to contribute to an operational activity in the economies in transition.

Statistics-related interaction within the ECE secretariat and among other PSBs

21. Another broad area of inter-sectoral linkages is statistics. Staff of the Statistical Division of the ECE participate actively in the meetings of other PSBs, particularly where the work of a given PSB is concerned directly with statistics. For example, the Statistical Division is providing the substance of ECE inputs into the work of the Study Group on Food and Agriculture Statistics in Europe, a subsidiary body of the Committee on Agriculture and of the CES. Statistical work has also been provided by the Statistical Division in the fields of science and technology, engineering industries and automation, and steel, working parties of the Industry and Technology Division. There are many more examples in other domains, such as Energy and Human Settlements.

22. The collection and sharing of data is also an important cooperative activity within the ECE. For example, the Statistical Division is responsible for providing the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections with the economic statistics which it needs for the Survey and Bulletin. This particular interdivisional cooperation is facilitated by a joint team (IDEST), comprised of staff from the two divisions. The task is increasingly onerous with many more countries, most of which have difficulty in supplying data and are unfamiliar with the statistical standards which they are now having to apply within the System of National Accounts. Statistically related work with other PSBs and organizational units is presented in tabular form in document CES/760 of 15 April 1993.

23. The Integrated Presentation of Statistical Programmes of all international organizations active in the region includes all of the statistical activities of the ECE including those activities which are mandated by PSBs other than the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference of European Statisticians is thereby well informed through the joint presentation of work programmes.

24. The Statistical Division will also ensure that all ECE divisions have the latest version of the Integrated Presentation of Statistical Programmes and will ask that the relevant parts of the presentation be made available to

other PSBs. It is suggested that the appropriate parts of the presentation, which are in the three languages of the ECE, should be presented to other PSBs as conference room papers. In this way other PSBs will be as well informed as the Conference of European Statisticians and can take the statistical work of others into account when planning their own statistical activities.

25. The Conference of European Statisticians (CES), at the request of the Commission, reviewed the statistical publications of all PSBs in the ECE and made recommendations. In the event, 39 publications were reviewed by the secretariat of the Statistical and other Divisions in consultation with all the relevant PSBs. (The final summary report and recommendations (ECE/CES/46), approved by the CES in June 1994, is now before the Commission for its approval.) Many of the publications reviewed were not strictly statistical publications, but contained a significant proportion of statistics.

26. The Director of the Statistical Division holds the responsibility for the Information Systems Unit and the Graphics Design Unit, both of which serve the whole of the ECE, and through these mechanisms, in close cooperation with his colleagues, provides information technology and graphics design services throughout the ECE.

UN/EDIFACT and other trade-related synergies where cooperation with other PSBs is becoming more critical

27. Future support from and cooperation with other ECE Divisions will become an increasingly critical issue for the Trade Facilitation section's continued role in managing the development of the UN/EDIFACT standard. Despite its evolution from efforts to facilitate the flow of information supporting international trade transactions, electronic data interchange based on the UN/EDIFACT standard is becoming an integral part of commercial and administrative activities which may have no direct relation to international trade transactions. Transport and Environment are two such areas. Examples include increased industrial efficiency through better logistical support from suppliers and transporters; improved environmental monitoring; accurate and timely statistical reporting. None of these activities necessarily involve international trade but all stand to benefit from UN/EDIFACT.

28. The wide range of expertise within the ECE is a very strong argument in favour of its UN/EDIFACT mandate, as opposed to an organization which is predominantly oriented towards a specific sector. Given its special responsibility to assist member States with economies in transition, the ECE recognizes that its support to policy and economic development must ensure that the legal, commercial and administrative infrastructures established today do not create barriers to the modern information technology that will become operational in these countries in next decade. Coordination between the regional adviser for trade facilitation and other regional advisers seeks to ensure that projects carried out in countries in transition promote the adoption of international standards.

29. Ways should be investigated to begin active cooperation with, for example, the Transport Division. Urgent need to improve border crossing infrastructure in countries in transition provides an excellent focus for collaboration between Transport and Trade. Border crossing operations could be streamlined through better integration of transport infrastructure and customs

controls. Transport conventions could be enhanced by introducing UN/EDIFACT to avoid new trade barriers being created by divergent transport systems and customs procedures. Information flows supporting national statistics could be enhanced through the application of UN/EDIFACT. By incorporating the underlying concepts of UN/EDIFACT into the information systems designed to support all areas of economic activity, these countries can avoid the costly conversion exercises which institutions in western market economies are required to undergo in order to reach the high levels of efficiency required to remain competitive. Logistics could additionally be improved to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to become cost-effective and maintain the quality assurance levels required by western markets.

30. In addition, a large number of UN/EDIFACT standard messages have been or are under development in the fields of customs and transport, particularly container transport. The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) is regularly informed about these developments. Similarly the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) is kept informed about developments with regard to ECE Customs and Transport Facilitation Conventions.

31. One important segment of work during the forthcoming revision of the TIR Convention is to secure the TIR transit system against fraudulent activities and to improve and speed up transmission of information among concerned customs authorities and guaranteeing associations. A possible solution could be to provide, in a revised convention, for the possibility to replace or complement the existing paper-based TIR Carnet by EDI messages based on the UN/EDIFACT standards. Work on this issue will require close cooperation between the ECE Trade and Transport Divisions as well as between WP.4 and WP.30.

32. Transport also benefits from Economic Analysis and Projections. Given the close linkages and parallelism in the growth rates of GDP and transport demand, both passengers and goods, the Transport Division makes extensive use of the work of the Division of Economic Analysis and Projections in the preparation of the annual document which the Transport Division presents to the Inland Transport Committee.

33. Another trade-focused activity, the Economic Bulletin for Europe, is one of the major inputs into the annual session of the Committee on the Development of Trade and is, along with the Economic Survey for Europe, an example of close cooperation between the Trade Division and the Division of Economic Analysis and Projections. The Survey and the Bulletin further provide a background to the exchanges on sectoral policy conducted in the different PSBs. For example, the annual Review of Forest Products Markets (Timber Committee) refers to overview of macroeconomic conditions prevailing in the region, based on the Economic Survey and Bulletin and prepared in collaboration between the Timber Section and the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections. They also benefit from the work and analysis carried out in the Trade and Energy Committees and the working groups in Industry.

34. Still in trade-related matters, in the preparation of the study called for under decision C (49) containing recommendations on ways and means of promoting the expansion of trade of the countries in transition, an intra-secretariat task force comprising experts from a number of divisions (notably

DEAP and Industry and Technology) was organized. The resulting paper, presented to the Commission at its fiftieth Session, represents a successful interdisciplinary effort.

35. There is scope for further cooperation between the Trade Division and other Divisions (in particular Economic Analysis, Environment and Industry and Technology) in the preparation of joint studies and workshops on cross-sectoral issues. In particular, a number of potential projects involving Regional Advisers from other Divisions (Industry and Technology, Environment, Agriculture and Timber) are at present under discussion. These projects include: preparation of a study/guide on environmental-type obstacles faced by eastern exporters to international markets; organizing a conference/workshop on FDI promotion in Georgia; assisting in organizing an investment forum from the Republic of Moldova with the special purpose of helping SMEs in their search for foreign partners; assistance in formulating policies on SME development and promotion in Belarus and Georgia; and a project identification mission to Russia regarding trade in forest products. Preliminary contacts with the interested host countries have already been established with a view to preparation of the detailed outlines for proposed projects. It is expected that by combining knowledge of general policy subjects acquired by the Trade Division's staff members with a specific expertise in particular fields from other Divisions, a balanced package of general and concrete recommendations specially tailored to the needs of a certain country in transition could be produced. This type of cross-divisional activity also maximizes opportunities for efficiency gains.

Interdivisional cooperation on standardization

36. Several PSBs are engaged in standardization activities, and coordination within the ECE secretariat is assured by an interdivisional team on standardization. Workshops and seminars in the fields of standardization have been organized and serviced jointly by the Industry and Technology Division with the Agriculture and Timber Division, the Energy Division, the Environment and Human Settlements Division and the Transport Division.

37. The Working Party on Standardization Policies is the only ECE subsidiary body which deals with standardization matters in a fully cross-sectoral manner, although the Energy and Environment Divisions also share cross-sectoral activities. Cooperation between the three Divisions concerned has taken the form of joint seminars on international standards for the protection of the environment and on energy efficiency standards.

38. In 1994 trade facilitation activities (Trade Division) and standardization of perishable produce (Agriculture and Timber Division) were brought to the attention of the Working Party on Standardization Policies, and vice-versa.

39. Additionally, a staff member of the Transport Division was invited as a key speaker to a workshop in Minsk, Belarus, in December 1994, sponsored by the Working Party on Standardization Policies. Another key speaker at this workshop was a staff member of the Agriculture and Timber Division, who lectured on food standardization and inspection.

40. The Working Party on Standardization Policies systematically maintains working relations with a number of other PSBs. Several workshops on

standardization have been serviced jointly by the Industry and Technology Division and the Agriculture and Timber Division.

41. Considerable scope exists for closer cooperation with other PSBs of the Commission, in particular on projects falling under the Industry and Technology CHEMISEED programme, as well as on the harmonization of chemical industry statistics.

Redeployment within existing ECE bodies indicates natural synergies

42. The possible redeployment of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee of Agriculture to other PSBs of the Commission is indicative of the cross-sectoral dimensions of work in the field of agriculture and creates future opportunities for synergies between these PSBs.